

Soviets blame West for Gulf war

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet newspaper on Sunday blamed the United States and its allies for the continuation of the six-year-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. The army daily Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) said the conflict, against the interests of both countries, could have ended long ago had "influential forces in the West" not been interested in prolonging it. Washington, while claiming to be neutral in the conflict, maintained efforts to deepen the contradictions between the two Gulf states as well as other Arab countries, it said. "Certain steps are also being taken to maintain the balance of forces on the Iranian-Iraqi front by manipulating the supplies of arms and military hardware to the warring sides and thereby to ensure the dragging out of the conflict," it said. The newspaper accused private arms companies in the United States, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Israel and Japan of supplying Iran "by roundabout ways" to make huge profits.

Jordan Times

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الجزيرة الأردنية المستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

OPEC ministers reach agreement

TAIF (R) — Six OPEC oil ministers formally ended talks here on Sunday, and Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Zaki Yamani said they reached an agreement to be put to a full session of the 13-nation group next month. Sheikh Yamani and ministers from Kuwait, Indonesia, Venezuela, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates had been reviewing output cooperation with states outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He gave no details to reporters of what kind of agreement was reached in the three-day talks, aimed at finding ways to bolster the sagging world oil market. The ministers' report will be presented to an OPEC conference in Brioni, Yugoslavia, starting on June 25. Officials said discussions covered an oil market review by OPEC experts, who also met here.

OPEC market share increases, page 7

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French official leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Jean François Deniau, vice-president of the French National Assembly's Foreign Committee, left Amman on Sunday following a three-day visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials. The focus of Mr. Deniau's talks in Amman was means and ways to revive Middle East peace efforts and the situation on the Iran-Iraqi front, according to French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq. The situation in Lebanon as well as the latest development in the region were also discussed during the meeting, Mr. Leclercq told the Jordan Times.

Villager killed, 4 hurt in Israeli shelling

SIDON (R) — One villager was killed and four were injured when Israeli forces shelled the South Lebanese village of Yater on Sunday, security sources said. The mosque of the village, just north of Israel's self-styled "security zone" was damaged by the heavy artillery shelling, the sources added.

Greek Cypriots vote

NICOSIA (R) — Greek Cypriots voted on Sunday in the first elections for city mayors and municipal councillors to be held in Cyprus in 33 years. An electorate of 215,000, including for the first time voters aged 18-20, is choosing 18 mayors from 69 candidates and 228 councillors from 800 nominees. Turkish Cypriots, in their breakaway northern state will hold separate local elections on June 1.

3,000 Sudanese rebels defect

KHARTOUM (R) — About 3,000 rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan have defected to a pro-government guerrilla group, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Sunday. It quoted Simon Manang, acting military governor of the Upper Nile region, as saying the defectors joined the "Friendly Anya-Nya 11" group with their arms. Anya-Nya 11 defected from the SPLA two years ago and has up to 15,000 men in the Upper Nile region.

Colombia goes to polls

BOGOTA (R) — Colombians voted on Sunday to elect a new president amid strict security measures to prevent possible guerrilla attacks, with no early incident reported. Liberal Party leader Virgilio Barco, a 64-year-old centrist former minister, was overwhelmingly favoured to win by a comfortable margin.

Vintage jets collide in U.S. air show

MILDENHALL (AP) — Two vintage jets collided in mid-air Sunday before more than 100,000 spectators at an air show hosted by the U.S. air force near Cambridge. The U.S. air force said two crewmen were safe but the fate of two others was not known. Suffolk fire services said they had been killed. The two Royal Air Force jets — a Glister Meteor and a de Havilland Vampire — were giving a display at Air Fete '86, one of the largest air displays in the world.

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Independence Day celebrated with nation-wide festivities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Sunday celebrated the 40th anniversary of its independence with nation-wide festivities and government departments and public institutions remaining closed on the occasion.

His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly countries expressing hope that Jordan will achieve further progress and prosperity.

The cables paid tribute to the King's wise policy towards national and international issues and his keenness to achieve pan-Arab solidarity and enhance joint Arab action.

The heads of state said in their cables that they look forward to developing their countries' relations and ties of friendship and cooperation with Jordan.

Cables of good wishes to the King also came from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Speaker and members of the Upper House of Parliament, deputy speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General

Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the directors of Public Security, Civil Defence and the Intelligence Departments, representatives of various economic and social organisations and presidents of trade and professional unions and members of the public.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inaugurated the Al Raya Al Hashemieh Gardens at the Sports City district of Amman which was set up by Amman Municipality. Prince Hassan toured the new garden, set up on 10 dunums with plenty of space for children to play, water fountains and planted with flowers and trees.

At the outset of the celebration, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh made a speech in which he said that the garden was named Al Raya Al Hashemieh (Hashemite banner) in reference to the Hashemite family's reign in Jordan. It is to symbolise Jordan's economic and social edifice built by Jordanians under the leadership of the Hashemite family.

He paid tribute to Prince Hassan's keenness on carrying out



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials attend Al Maghreb prayers prior to taking part in an Iftar development projects in Jordan.

Other speakers at the celebration spoke about independence and the public services in the Amman area.

The Al Raya Al Hashemieh garden is the 27th in a series of 50 gardens the municipality is setting up in the capital.

Later, Prince Hassan opened

another garden at Marka set up amidst a district inhabited by 10,000 people, and another at Jabal Al Nasr, set up on 18 dunums of land and containing a

community centre, a children's library and essential services and playing facilities for children.

The garden was named after Mahmoud Al Uddah who had had a long service in Amman Municipality before his recent death.

The Amman Municipality organised an agricultural, industrial and trade exhibition which will last two weeks. The exhibition was opened by Mayor Rawabdeh at the new municipality building.

It displays local industrial and agricultural products and highlights the government's activities to promote the agricultural and industrial sectors in Jordan.

Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Information Michael Hamameh opened an art exhibition at Philadelphia Hotel on Saturday.

The exhibition, organised in cooperation with the department of arts and culture and Amman Municipality, exhibits some 60 paintings depicting general scenery in Jordan.

It will remain open for seven days.

On the anniversary of Jordan's 40th independence, the Ministry of Communications put into circulation a commemorative 160-fils stamp bearing the picture of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, decorating an army soldier with a distinguished Jordanian medal.

Ministry Under-Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said the design on the stamp highlights the role of the Armed Forces in building up the country and bolstering its independence.

Prime Minister and Defence Minister Zaid Rifai said the design on the stamp highlights the role of the Armed Forces in building up the country and bolstering its independence.

On the occasion of the Independence Day anniversary, Prime Minister and Defence Minister Zaid Rifai hosted an Iftar banquet in honour of King Hussein at the Sports City on Sunday.

It was attended by Prince Hassan, senior officials, heads of professional organisations, and Islamic and Christian religious leaders.

King returns from Damascus

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home early Sunday from a brief trip to Damascus for his second round of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in the last three weeks.

Reuters quoted diplomats as speculating that the two leaders were trying to pave the way for an Arab summit.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the King and President Assad discussed the current Arab situation and relations between the two states in three hours of private talks Saturday night. Petra did not elaborate.

The last attempt to convene an Arab summit after the April 15 U.S. bombing raid on Libya collapsed in disarray. Arab states failed to agree on an agenda and Libya's leader Muammar Qadhafi tried to change the venue from Morocco to a town in the Libyan desert.

However Arab foreign ministers agreed to make another effort to hold a summit.

The King last conferred with

President Assad in Amman on May 5. President Assad's visit to Jordan was his first in nine years.

The King had previously visited Damascus on Dec. 30.

Petra said that while King Hussein and President Assad were meeting, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai had separate talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri also accompanied the King on his visit to Damascus.

The King and the accompanying delegation were the guests of honour at an Iftar banquet hosted by President Assad Saturday evening. The King was received upon his arrival and seen off upon his departure from Damascus by President Assad and senior Syrian officials.



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Saturday night (photo on left) and is received by



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return to Amman early Sunday (Petra photos)

Jordan, along with world nations, stages 'Race Against Time' to raise aid for Africa

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

and agency dispatches

PEOPLE IN five continents, estimated at between 25 and 30 million runners in 266 cities in 75 countries including Jordan took part in a "Race Against Time" to raise funds for Africa, making it the biggest fund-raising event in world history.

Nearly 800 runners in Jordan participated in Sport Aid's "Race Against Time" worldwide climax. The race kicked off from the Intermediate University College and ended three kilometres away at the Sport City stadium where winners were awarded prizes.

Men, women and children took part in the event which was organised here by UNICEF and the sports federation.

"It was an opportunity to do something physical for the less fortunate in Africa," a 64-year-old participant who had just crossed the finishing line told the Jordan Times. The businessman,

who identified himself as Abu Nader, said: "It is always better to get on your feet and do something rather than just talk about a problem."

He was still waiting for his wife five minutes later. "It must be the heat that has delayed her," he said. His wife is 58.

Children as young as 12 took part in the race through the Zarqa Highway, braving the heat.

Jordan joined the international event on its Independence Day in solidarity with Sudan and other African nations.

Mohammad Matari won the children category in Sunday's event. A Sports Federation official said Mohammad Matari is the younger brother of 18-year-old Khadija Matari who ran in London's "Race Against Time" along with 20-year-old Ahmad Moukbel on Sunday.

Amnag Odeh won the female category. Fayeza Juma'a won the male 15-25 age category. Tho-

mas Hammer-Shmidt won the 26-35 category and Ogla Masri won in the over-35 group. All participants received certificates from UNICEF.

Young and old in 75 countries took part in the simultaneous sponsored "Race Against Time," billed as the biggest global athletic event of all time. Organisers hope the event will raise \$150 million for famine relief.

Sport Aid was the idea of Irish rock star Bob Geldof who founded the charitable group Band Aid, which has raised nearly \$103 million from records, "Live Aid" trans-Atlantic rock music concerts and other projects.

The race started as Sudanese athlete Omar Khalifa, who completed a series of 10-km runs through 12 European cities, arrived at the United Nations with the Olympic-style torch he lit on a relief camp fire in his native country eight days ago.

Khalifa told reporters before leaving for New York: "I am not thinking about being tired. I am running this race with all of my heart and I am giving 100 per cent."

Pensioners and disabled people joined the race as best they could.

Organisers enlisted a host of celebrities and prominent people from all walks of life to mobilise the masses.

Runners Sebastian Coe and Grete Waitz were leading the way in New York, tennis player Adriano Panatta in Rome, pop stars Sting, Rod Stewart and Boy George in London.

Geldof's Band Aid trust and UNICEF will share the proceeds, but organisers bringing pressure to bear on the international community to act for Africa.

The race was timed to precede the first U.N. General Assembly special session on Africa opening on Monday.

Operator's 'experiment' caused Chernobyl disaster, paper says

LONDON (AP) — Human error was responsible for the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday, quoting unidentified Soviet and international nuclear investigators.

"An operator's mistake — in the positioning of rods used to keep the nuclear reaction under control — led to a chain of events which caused a 200-ton crane to crash on to the intensely radioactive core of the reactor — and to the world's worst disaster in a nuclear power plant," the weekly paper said.

At least 15 people died and nearly 300 were hospitalised after the accident.

The Observer said investigators believe a sudden power surge in the number four reactor at Chernobyl shortly after 1:23 a.m. on April 26 "can only have happened through an operator altering the position of the control rods."

The reactor, which was undergoing maintenance, went from seven per cent power to half its normal level without any warning, the paper said.

Investigators believe the operator "may have been conducting experiments on the reactor — either officially or on his own ini-

tiative — to see what would happen if the rods were adjusted," the paper said.

"This fits in with a cryptic (Soviet) statement last week that 'experimental research work' was going on at Chernobyl at the time," it said.

Unidentified experts were quoted by the paper as saying such an experiment on a Soviet RBMK-1000 reactor like Chernobyl is "particularly perilous" because the nuclear reaction in the core is very delicately balanced.

"The investigators think the operator pulled out some control rods and upset this delicate balance," the Observer said. "Alarmed, he moved some more rods to try to get the situation back under control — and this caused part of the reactor to go critical."

A section near the top of the reactor core rapidly heated up causing both the uranium fuel and its zirconium containers to become extremely hot, the paper said.

Normally, the containers are cooled by water but as they became extremely hot, the zirconium reacted with the water to produce hydrogen which leaked into the hall above the reactor core and exploded, the paper said.

GCC team launches plan to settle Bahrain-Qatar row

BAHRAIN (R) — A team of military observers set up by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) arrived in Qatar and Bahrain on Sunday as a first step towards implementing a Saudi Arabian plan to resolve their territorial dispute.

A GCC statement said the team from member states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates and led by Major-General Sa'id Al Muz'ineh "began its mission to restore the situation between Bahrain and Qatar to normal."

The statement gave no other details. Gulf sources have said the team will monitor the pullback of Bahraini and Qatari forces from border zones and disputed areas.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara and the head of the council's military commission, Youssef Al Madani, meanwhile, continued talks in Bahrain on how to carry out the Saudi plan. They were due to fly to Qatar on a similar mission.

The dispute, which threatened a rift within the six-nation alliance, flared last month when Qatari troops landed on the disputed reef of Fasht Ad Dibal and seized 30 foreign workers preparing the ground for a Bahraini coastguard station.

The workers — 25 Filipinos, two Britons, two Thais and a Dutchman — were released after 17 days.

Saudi Arabia said last Monday that the two emirates had accepted its proposals for a settlement. Gulf sources said these envisage a reduction of troops deployments on border zones and referring the dispute to negotiations.

The foreign ministers of Bahrain and Qatar were due to meet in the next 10 days to discuss the dispute, the United Arab Emirates daily Al Ittihad reported. It said the Saudi defence and foreign ministers will also attend the talks.

In Doha, well-informed sources said Bahrain had agreed to dismantle construction of the coastguard post in Fasht Ad Dibal and dredging work on a nearby reef, which Qatar has said was in violation of a 1982 pact.

The ownership claims to Fasht Ad Dibal and other areas, including the sparsely-populated Hawar Islands, have been unresolved for some 40 years since the two emirates were under British protection.

Assad begins visit to Greece today

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad goes to Greece on Monday as part of his drive to deflect charges in the West that his country supports international guerrilla violence.

Official sources said he would confer with President Christos Sartzetakis and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu on the three-day state visit, his first to a NATO country.

Diplomats said Mr. Assad was expected to tell Greek leaders that Syria was an actual and potential target of attack, rather than an instigator of "terrorism."

Syria has reported at least 200 people killed in a wave of bomb blasts in the last three months and the media blamed agents of Israel for the attacks.

Mr. Assad has denied Syrian involvement in "terrorism" and sought international support in the face of implied military threats from Israel and the United States.

Newsweek magazine reported on Sunday that the U.S. State Department's top expert on terrorism has warned Syria to stop supporting Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal, who the U.S. blames for the Rome and Vienna airport attacks last December.

State Department official Robert Oakley delivered the warning — in which he also insisted that "terrorists" be expelled from camps in Syria and Lebanon — to Syrian Ambassador Rafic Joueati in Washington two weeks ago, the weekly news magazine reported.

It said Mr. Oakley confronted Mr. Joueati with "evidence" of alleged Syrian complicity in a number of attacks, including the Rome airport attack Dec. 27.

The warning carried no threat of "reprisals" if Syria refused to comply, but Washington hopes an unspoken threat of new economic and political sanctions will convince President Assad to "mend" his ways. Newsweek reported.

The United States last month sent warplanes to hit Libya in "retaliation" for allegedly murdering a bomb blast at a West Berlin club frequented by U.S. servicemen.

However since the U.S. strike on Libya, the New York Times reported the sole surviving gunman from the Rome attack told interrogators he was trained for the mission by Syrian agents.

Britain earlier this month expelled three Syrian diplomats after Damascus refused to allow them to be questioned by police investigating the attempt to bomb an Israeli El Al plane. Syria denied involvement and ordered out three British diplomats.

Greece, the only state in Western Europe with no diplomatic relations with Israel, is a staunch supporter of Arab rights and insists on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab land.

Friendship society celebrates Independence Day in Moscow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the board of the Soviet-Jordanian friendship society and the deputy health minister in the Soviet Union has hailed the Jordanian people and sent them his best wishes on the occasion of the Kingdom's Independence Day, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from Moscow.

Speaking during the opening of a special celebration organised in Moscow on the occasion of Jordan's Independence Day, he said that Jordan gained its independence forty years ago through a long struggle, especially against foreign colonialists. The Jordanian people are still continuing their struggle to utilise their independence for the sake of freedom and social progress, he said. The Israeli aggression, he added, has become a heavy burden on Jordanians as well as on the Arab people and the Israeli expansionist policy, backed by world imperialism at the top of which is the USA, has led to the continuity of the tense situation in the Middle East. He also stressed that the Soviet people, who believe in struggling against all forms of aggression, have always been and will remain at the side of Arab peoples in their struggle to achieve their legitimate rights including those of the Palestinian people.

The former Soviet ambassador to Jordan also delivered a speech during the celebration in which he said that Jordanian-Soviet relations are characterised by continuing progress to achieve the interests of the two peoples. He also pointed out that the two friendship societies in the Soviet Union and Jordan, through their various activities, make major contributions towards strengthening friendship and understanding between the two peoples.

Jordan's Ambassador in Moscow Faleh Al Tawil also referred to the high level and successful development of relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the economic, trade, scientific and cultural fields. He also expressed his hope that these relations will further develop in the future and that they will serve the cause of peace in the Middle East and in the world as a whole.

Prince Hassan to chair talks on 5-year plan for Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is expected to chair a meeting in the coming few days to discuss a five-year plan for Amman Governorate, according to an announcement which followed a preparatory meeting held in Amman on Saturday evening. The preparatory meeting, which was chaired by Amman Governor Ahmad Hindawi, discussed arrangements for preparing the plan, prior to discussing it at the forthcoming meeting. The preparatory meeting was attended by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and several officials from the Ministry of Planning and Amman Governorate.

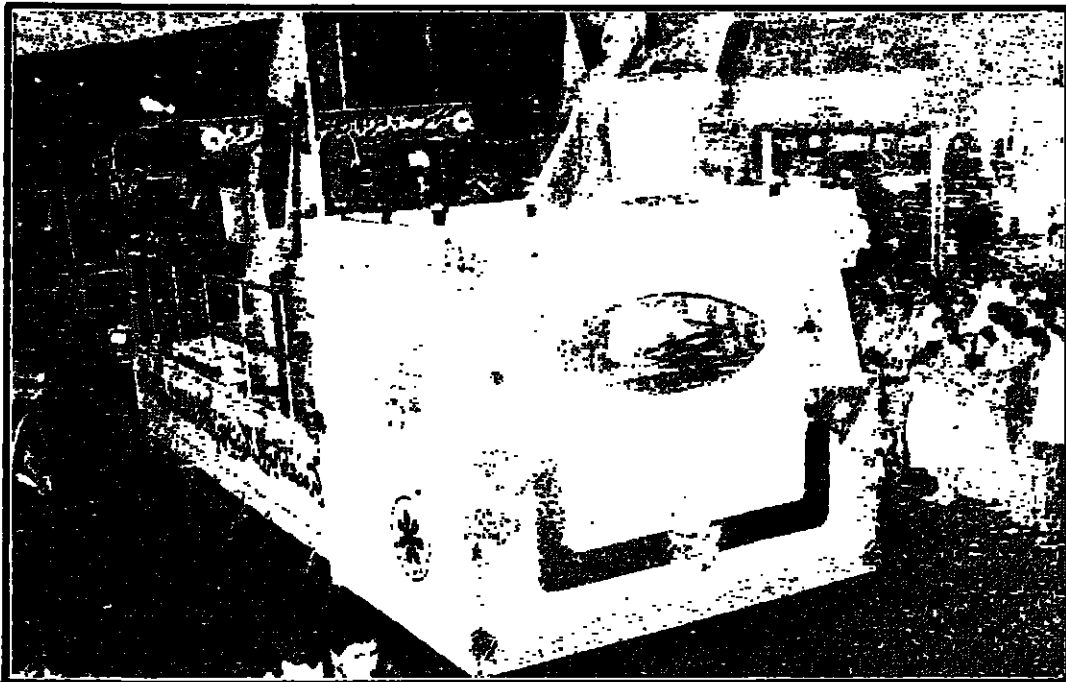
On Saturday evening Crown Prince Hassan paid a visit to the

Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the army chief of staff's assistants and the armed forces inspector general. The Crown Prince met with Sharif Zaid before joining army officers for Iftar.

Later, Prince Hassan chaired a meeting to discuss the role and aspirations of the armed forces in the country's five-year development plan 1986-1990. The Crown Prince heard a detailed report by the formulating committee at the end.

The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Taher Kana'an, members of the plan's working committee and number of senior armed forces officers.

Jordan celebrates Independence Day



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday patronises celebrations marking Independence Day by opening a new garden in Amman (top left) and members of the Armed Forces and citizens parade through the streets as part of the nation's Independence Day festivities (Petra photo)



Pan-Arab company takes first steps towards agricultural integration

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Achieving food security and agricultural integration among Arab countries are two main concerns that have been raised repeatedly by governmental and non-governmental organisations across the Arab World as part of the ever-aspirated goal of realising Arab unity.

Inter-Arab differences and other factors, however, have worked together to impede the realisation of these two goals or any practical and effective Arab cooperation to formulate a unified Arab plan to develop agriculture.

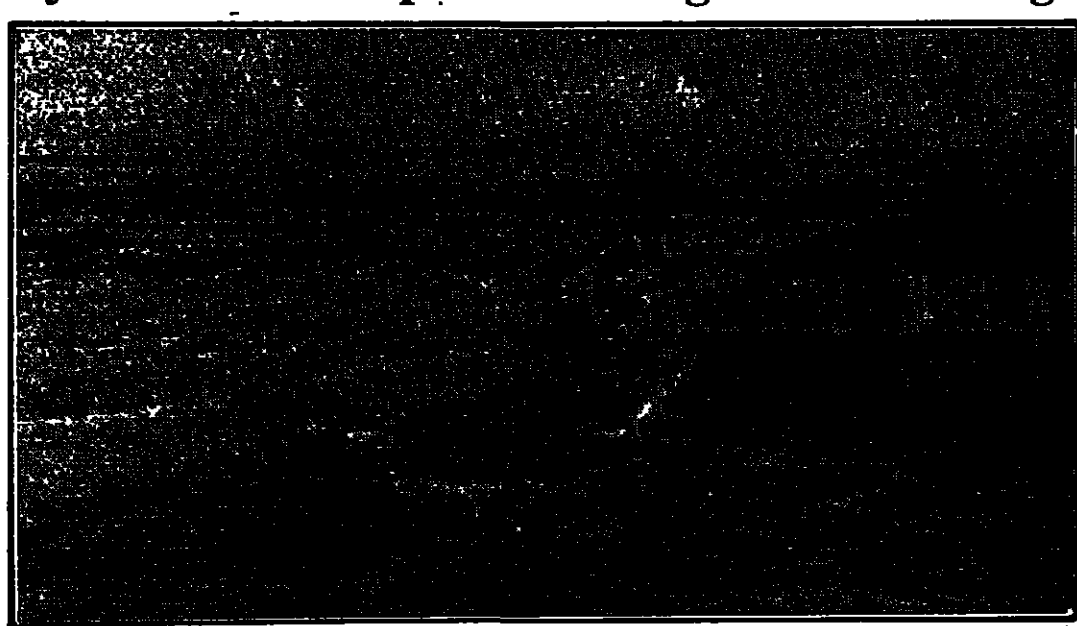
Political disputes and geographic boundaries have not stopped a group of concerned Arab businessmen who decided to take the initiative and embark on establishing a pan Arab company for agricultural investment in the Arab World.

The main goal of the company, the idea for which originated during the first conference of Arab businessmen and investors in 1981 in Ta'ef, was to increase the private sector's contributions to efforts to achieve food security. The idea soon developed into a practical plan when the second conference of Arab businessmen and investors, which was held in Casablanca in 1982, formed a nine-member founding committee, headed by the Saudi Arabian businessman Sheikh Saleh Abdullah Kamel.

The founding committee was designated to contact Arab governments and request their permission to offer shares in the new company in Arab markets.

According to Mr. Hamdi Al Taba'a, president of Jordan's Federation of Chambers of Commerce, who was among the co-founders, the Jordanian government was the first to allow the sale of the new company's shares. The project has apparently appealed to the Jordanian public who bought 55 million worth of the company's shares.

By April 1985, 10 million shares worth 20 per cent of the company's \$100 million capital were sold and a founding meeting for the company's general assembly was held in Bahrain.



The pan-Arab investment company will initially focus its attention on large scale, commercial agricultural projects (J.T. file photo)

The government of Bahrain agreed to register the company as an offshore pan-Arab company and on April 13 holders of 8,840,933 shares witnessed the official birth of the Arab Agricultural Investment Company (AAIC).

The general assembly then elected the first board of 12 directors which comprises businessmen from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Bahrain and Morocco.

Dr. Mohammed Abda Yaraani from Saudi Arabia was elected president of the board of directors and a four-member committee was appointed to study different projects proposed by Arab governments and companies.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Taba'a, who is one of the four executive committee members, explained that AAIC is basically a holding company which could either establish specialised branches or enter into partnerships with local companies to execute specific projects in the Arab World.

Objectives

The AAIC's main objective is to contribute to efforts to develop agriculture and to achieve food

security. But it is also a commercial profit making company and will only undertake projects which do not freeze its capital or which would generate only short-term revenues.

"The original idea was to establish a huge \$1 billion company, but the capital was later reduced to \$100 million. But we hope to increase it once the work gets going," Mr. Taba'a explained.

And basically due to financial constraints, the AAIC will not accept projects which involve the construction of high-cost infrastructure and consequently it will not be involved in major irrigation schemes.

Otherwise the company is likely to accept most projects in all agricultural areas, provided they are consistent with Arab countries' development plans.

According to the company's statement of objectives, AAIC activities in the near future will concentrate on four areas, taking into consideration the condition of agriculture in the Arab World.

The four areas includes the production of improved seeds, dairy products, manufacturing of agricultural machinery and equipment and marketing agricultural products.

Improved seeds

Since almost all Arab countries import most of their seeds, the AAIC's first step will be to form a branch company for the production of improved seeds in order to meet the seed requirements for basic crops, particularly cereals. In this, the company is benefiting from the experiences of India and Pakistan which were able to achieve self sufficiency in wheat production through the use of improved seeds.

The location of the factory for the branch company has not yet been decided but it will also include a branch to market the seeds. As for dairy production, the

company plans to make use of Sudan where it will open modern farms, and it will make use of the animal resources of Sudan and Somalia, which have 80 per cent of the animal wealth in the Arab World while fulfilling the demand for dairy products in other Arab countries.

The company's plans also include projects to increase animal resources in Jordan. For example, Mr. Taba'a said that the executive committee is currently studying three projects submitted by the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS), which is considered to be a main shareholder in the company. The suggested projects include plans for a farm to raise rabbits, fish farming and bee-keeping.

Manufacturing agricultural machinery is given special attention by the company since a lack of equipment is considered a major problem facing the Arab farmer.

Marketing

Marketing agricultural products is perhaps one of the most difficult obstacles facing Arab farmers everywhere. But agricultural marketing and a lack of sufficient

funds are two interrelated issues which have constituted serious obstacles for Arab farmers everywhere.

To contribute towards solving these two problems, the AAIC plans to establish a branch company in charge of marketing agricultural products and at the same time to include agricultural associations in the company.

The statement of objectives, however, does not discuss the nature of loans which will be given to farmers, particularly since the main complaint of Arab farmers has been the high interest on long-term loans. Instead, the statement focusses on what seems to be the company's alternative to help farmers through in-kind aid such as providing them with seeds, fertilisers and pesticides.

The AAIC's view of an effective marketing company is to deal with the Arab World as a large, integrated market with an emphasis on surplus products in some Arab countries but which are in great demand in others.

This ambitious project, like any other project, is facing some obstacles, partly related to the general conditions in Arab countries.

Main obstacles

Mr. Taba'a cited two main obstacles which are facing the implementation of this huge project. "The first problem we face is the lack of enough feasibility studies regarding private sector agricultural projects and to overcome this obstacle, the AAIC finds itself obliged to carry out such studies."

The second and more serious obstacle is that some Arab countries are closed to private property investments, because of their economic systems," Mr. Taba'a added. Another related problem is that since the company is based in Bahrain, some Arab countries will not deal with it for political reasons," he added.

But the determined founders of the company do not seem discouraged by these obstacles and they have already distributed brochures on the objectives of the AAIC in the hope of attracting Jordanian and other Arab parties interested in agricultural investment.



The AAIC has plans to upgrade marketing strategies for agricultural produce (J.T. file photo)

Second Circle becomes a monument to Jordan's industrial development

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry is currently setting up a monument symbolising industrial development in Jordan under the reign of His Majesty King Hussein. The monument, which will be presented as a gift to Amman Municipality, is being set up to mark the 50th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein.

Sculptor Samer Tabba'a is supervising the construction of the monument at the Second Circle in Jabat Amman. Work on the JD 35,000 project is expected to be completed in six months.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Mr. Tabba'a said that the monument embodies a number of elements, but mainly the wheel which symbolises industry and which is set among trees, a waterfall and a fountain.

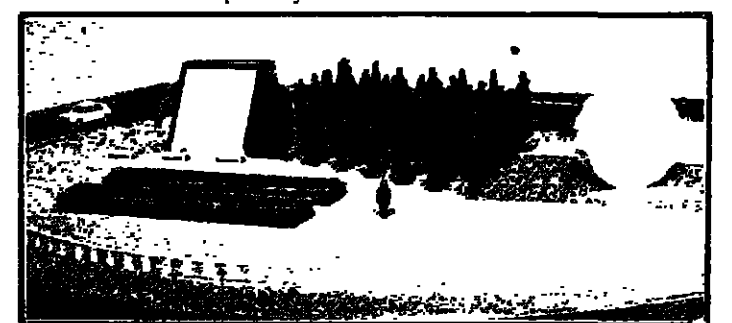
According to Mr. Tabba'a, the Amman Chamber of Industry has asked for several elements to be embodied in the monument to

represent industry and development. The monument will cover the whole area of the Second Circle and is in keeping with the surrounding area. The presence of the wheel symbolises the beginning of the industrial revolution in human civilisation. Mr. Tabba'a added.

The lines running parallel to the monument represent the continuous flow and development of industry. There is a large disc made of cement and stone rising five and half metres high and the fountain has been inspired by Ori-

ental heritage and the fountains of Andalusia and India. The fountain will not need a lot of water because it will be the same amount used again and again. Mr. Tabba'a said. He said there will be suitable lighting for the monument at the fountain and the wheel.

Mr. Tabba'a had earlier organised several exhibitions in Jordan and abroad and has also served as director of the National Jordanian Museum of Fine Arts in Amman before giving up his job to have sufficient time for his artistic work.



Planned design for the Second Circle

NEWS IN BRIEF

JMA to study unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) in cooperation with official parties is planning a study on unemployment in the medical sector with view to finding suitable solutions to the problem. The JMA has asked all unemployed doctors or those with low incomes to call at its office within two weeks to fill out a special form to be used in the study.

Man stabs sister to death

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 26-year-old man from the Gaza Strip who works as a builder in Amman has stabbed his 30-year-old sister to death. Reports in the local press gave no details for the reason behind the incident and police authorities are investigating the crime.

Academy honours local poet

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Department of Culture and Arts Haider Mahmoud has received an honorary doctorate from the World Academy of Arts and Culture for his distinguished poems and his efforts in the field of culture and arts. In their letter to Mr. Mahmoud, the academy's board of trustees said that they considered him prominent among Arab poets and said that he enjoys an outstanding reputation.

Researcher to lecture on rural Jordan

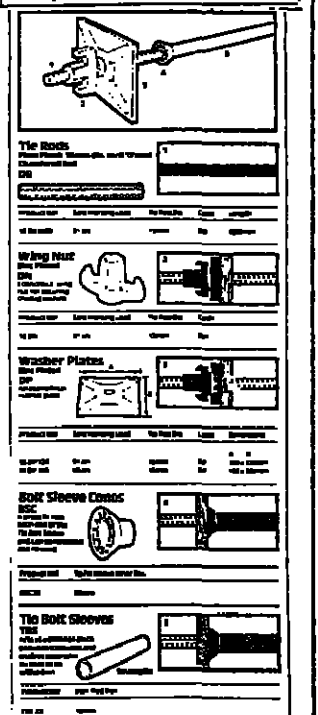
AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Richard Antoun, professor of anthropology at the State University of New York at Binghamton, will speak on "The Impact of Education and Migration in Rural Jordan: A Case Study of Kufr Al-Ma" on Tuesday June 3 at 8.30 p.m. at the new ACOR building, opposite the University of Jordan.

Friends organise trip to Jawa

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Friends of Archaeology wish to inform members that their trip to Jawa will now be on Thursday and Friday June 12 and 13. Departure will be at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday and there will be an overnight stay at the Azraq resthouse. Reservations for the trip must be made before June 2. Contact Mrs. Marilyn Bentley (669089) for details.

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Ringing in 1989

PRESIDENT Reagan's veto Wednesday of the so-called "resolution of disapproval" barring the sale of defensive missiles to Saudi Arabia brought to a relatively favourable end one of the most tragicomic bits of executive branch policy-making we have witnessed in many years. When the effort to provide a \$354 million package of Stinger, Sidewinder and Harpoon missiles to Saudi Arabia began several months ago, much was made of the announcement by the primary Israeli lobbying instrument, AIPAC, that it would not oppose the sale. The Reagan administration preferred to see this as evidence of the lobby's "maturity," and of Israeli and American Jewish understanding for the importance of the United States' strategic relationship with "moderate" Arab states, particularly those threatened by Iranian aggression. In the build up to the overwhelming congressional vote against the sale two weeks ago, however, it became clear that the Jewish lobby had merely recognised that in the anti-Arab atmosphere currently permeating the halls of Capitol Hill, it could afford to sit out this fight, assured that its Palestinian minions in Congress would steadfastly protect Israeli interests even without the customary cue from AIPAC.

Israel's lobbyists were right, of course, and when it became apparent that the margin of congressional disapproval was easily large enough to override the promised presidential veto, the administration was momentarily stunned, and did not know where to turn next for a way out of its dilemma. For in truth this time the Reagan administration found itself caught in a trap of its own making, hamstringed by the extremist rhetoric and actions that had characterised its approach to certain Arab states during the past several months.

Stung by the realisation of what the resulting anti-Arab sentiment could portend for friendly relations with "moderate" Arab states, administration officials such as Secretary of State George Shultz and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy quickly went public with statements drawing a clear line between Arab states which are friendly with America and those which are not. When congressional leaders showed little confidence in this distinction, administration officials decided to try another tack. Prodded by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar, Mr. Reagan embraced the novel idea of enlisting the aid of the Jewish lobby in its efforts to sell arms to the Arabs. President Reagan subsequently met with 11 Jewish leaders in the White House last Tuesday, ostensibly not to ask them to lobby on behalf of arms for the Saudis, but rather to "explain the very important national security interests that are involved in the Saudi arms sales." And in spite of one Jewish leader's statement that it was "quite unrealistic" to expect the supporters of Israel to side with Mr. Reagan on this issue, Sen. Lugar persisted in his faith that "if Jewish leaders are able to make a convincing recommendation that in order to preserve the United States' influence in Middle East diplomacy, the president's word here ought to be good, the sale ought to go through."

Such a recommendation would be startling indeed, but no less so than this disconcerting and open plea by leaders of the United States' government for Jewish permission to undertake a measure deemed to be in America's strategic interest.

United States' support for Israel is predicted on the belief in Washington that the Jewish State promotes the strategic interests of America in the Middle East region. We have long been aware of the transparent fallacy of this premise, but it perhaps has never been so clearly manifested than in this recent struggle over arms for the Saudis that in the U.S.-Israel relationship the tail wags the dog.

In an article written more than two weeks ago, former Israeli lobbyist Richard Strauss described the "revolution" in Washington's Middle East policy during the Reagan years. Mr. Strauss claimed that under Reagan even the pretence of "even-handedness" in U.S. policy towards the Middle East has been given up in favour of complete and unquestioning support for whatever Israel wants. In assessing the permanence of this transformation, Mr. Strauss concluded that it will likely endure even after Reagan has left office. He also predicted, though only half-seriously, that "by then (1989) AIPAC may have to be called upon to assist in arms sales to Arab moderates." Welcome to 1989.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Jordan celebrates Independence Day

JORDAN Sunday celebrated Independence Day, with its people more determined than ever before to march ahead behind their leader towards achieving prosperity. The Independence of Jordan which took place 40 years ago marked the emergence of a new Arab force in the Middle East region that was able to check the expansion of Israel and which stood as a strong fortress for the Arabs, defending them against aggression. Since independence, Jordan has been building and has been contributing so much to the joint Arab action and towards achieving progress and prosperity for the nation. Jordan has never paused in the long march for progress and has not lagged behind Arab states in endeavours toward unity in implementation of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. Under King Hussein, this country has been transformed into a modern state enjoying security and stability in a turbulent region. Jordan under King Hussein has acquired an excellent reputation world-wide, and has through its national policies, rallied the Arab nation and served as a tool for unity, despite the numerous challenges.

Al Dustour: Jordan continues its march

ON the 40th Independence anniversary Jordan feels proud of the achievements realised under King Hussein. The people of Jordan displayed their pride of their country and their renewed allegiance to the King in the enthusiastic rally held at Zarqa Saturday to honour the monarch. In turning out at the rally, the people of this country have showed determination to march ahead under King Hussein's banner, and under his wise command. The people of Jordan today look back over the years which entailed challenges and difficulties, overcome with determination as they realise the achievements and the progress they were able to make under the wise leadership of King Hussein. This anniversary is a day for renewing allegiance to the King and for bolstering determination for offering sacrifice and further efforts to build a prosperous nation. Jordan's record is full of economic, social and cultural achievements that gave this independence its real meaning. We are sure of our steps and certain that our march will lead to progress and prosperity.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan defends the nation

ON the anniversary of independence, the Jordanian people are more determined than ever before to pursue the march behind their leader. The Jordanian people, through serious efforts and determination and diligence, have made great achievements. Despite the challenges and the obstacles in the way Jordan has been able to acquire a true Arab identity and maintain a force capable of defending the nation in the face of fierce acts of aggression and enemy ambitions. Jordan now enjoys stability and security, rarely found in Arab countries beset with trouble and embroiled with disputes. This anniversary is an opportunity for the Jordanian people to feel proud of their achievements and their progress. They renew the pledge to march behind their leader to achieve yet greater prosperity under the banner of the Great Arab Revolt.

Toffler predicts change in geopolitical picture

WASHINGTON — Alvin Toffler, who analysed social change in his 1970 book "Future Shock," predicted May 20 a future realignment of alliances and regional arrangements that were made at the end of World War II.

Toffler also said he did not believe a "bipolar" political system divided basically between the United States and the Soviet Union "can prevail indefinitely."

Toffler said he foresees a "reconceptualisation" of political institutions in the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union and Great Britain because "we're moving into a new kind of social and economic structure. It's not the same world; it's not the world that grew out of the smogstack and the assembly line."

Also the author of "The Third Wave," Toffler most recently has written the book, "The Adaptive Corporation." He was interviewed on Worldnet, the U.S. Information Agency's satellite programme, by journalists and other participants in Bonn, Lisbon, Rome, Vienna and The Hague.

In his writings, Toffler has questioned society's ability to adapt to the future because of the acceleration of technological change.

Twenty-five years from now, he thinks, the "world geopolitical picture is going to look quite different. And in the meantime, I am, I suppose, based on faith and vision as much as anything else, persuaded that the United States and the Soviet Union will not engage in a worldwide nuclear holocaust. But I do not at all rule out the possibility of 'small wars' and possibly even small 'nuclear wars'."

Toffler attributed the U.S. space shuttle Challenger explosion and the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident to "flawed decision making, not hardware problems." He said, "I don't believe that technology is foolproof. I do not believe that technology is going to save the world. I think there are dangerous technologies, and I think that there are also positive technologies." He added, "The idea of putting gigantic nuclear reactors outside major population centres has always seemed to me to be wrong. The dangers of nuclear disaster have always been present, as far as I have been concerned."

Toffler said a third historical wave of change, following the agricultural and industrial rev-

olutions, is affecting many industrialised countries.

"It begins to tolerate, and even encourage, diversity, and that suggests that some of the suppositions on which the Common Market, for example, were based, may no longer be entirely sensible," he continued. "Many of the arguments, for example, for the Common Market were, 'We have to get bigger. We have to create gigantic mergers between Pirelli and a British or French firm. We have to create these mega-organisations in order to compete with the Americans and then later with the Japanese.'"

Many American and Japanese firms, however, are facing the need to get smaller, Toffler noted.

Toffler said, "I am not saying that 'small is beautiful.' I do not believe 'small is beautiful.' But I also don't believe 'big is beautiful.' What is beautiful is the appropriate mix of small and big and also small within big. And I think that the kind of economy and the kind of society that is beginning to emerge is one which can permit European countries and other countries to retain more of their national identity than ind-

ustrialisation permitted."

At the end of the age of the mass industrial society, Toffler said "something new is beginning to develop on the face of the planet... this new society — much more complex, much more fluid, totally unprecedented — and therefore, many of our ways of thinking about it, our conceptual tools are rusty, they're obsolete."

Industrial nations, he said, are going to have to think about "a 25-hour work week with five hours of training time as a kind of baseline."

The basis for a new social contract exists, he said. "In return for training, education, and a shorter work week, we could provide increased flexibility and, therefore, survival for our economies."

Other topics discussed by Toffler included:

— Work at home and in neighbourhood centres: "I think we are going to see a push in this direction, although how long it takes, I don't know. And I think the pattern will be different in every country. In Japan, for example, critics of this idea said, 'Look, our homes are small. We don't have a great deal of room in our physical

homes. Therefore, it's more likely that it will be decentralised to the neighbourhood rather than to the home.' Why not?"

— The future of world trade: "My hunch is — and I call it a hunch rather than a finding or a certainty — that there will be eventually a limit to the integration of world trade. What we're seeing now and will continue to see is the ability of high-tech countries to process their own raw materials through substitution. The smarter we get technologically, the more we're able to take anything and convert it into anything else."

— Mass media: "What the mass media did was distribute essentially the same images to millions of human skulls or brains at the same time. What is happening today is what I call the demassification of the mass media. We are taking the large audiences and breaking them into smaller groups, each served by its own media."

— The arts: Aside from the "enormous pleasure" they give to the audience, film, theatre and literature also provide "what psychologists would call no-trial learning," he said. "I don't have to

try out somebody else's form of life or way of life in order to draw some conclusions about whether it would work for me or not, because I saw it in the movies or because I saw it in the theatre. If the thief gets caught, he goes to prison. Therefore, being a thief isn't such a wonderful idea..."

"I think what happens with much art is that it provides us with a notion that the world is richer in alternatives than everyday life suggests, that it gives us an opportunity to test ourselves in various ways, and that it helps us to adapt to change."

— Religion: "We run the risk of a world polarised not by East-West divisions, but by religious divisions. I think it is extremely important for us to work against that kind of a world. I am thinking in terms of the relationship of Islam to the West. I am thinking of Buddhism and other large religions with hundreds of millions of members, and how these religions interact on the face of the planet."

"I think that religion will continue to be a very important factor in people's sense of who they are and their sense of fulfillment and purpose in life." USA

Gorbachev may aim for missile accord next year

By Patrick Worsnip

Roulet

LONDON — Despite scepticism among some observers about U.S.-Soviet arms talks, senior Western diplomats believe Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev may be aiming to sign a missile agreement next year.

They said he would probably want to do so at a superpower summit in Moscow, which would enable him to appear as a peacemaker on his home ground before his own people.

If they are right, the most likely accord would be one limiting medium-range nuclear missiles. This is the only one of the three topics under negotiation by American and Soviet officials in Geneva where a compromise seems within reach.

In the other two fields — long-range strategic missiles and space weapons — fundamental differences are still blocking progress 14 months after the talks began in the Swiss city.

Major obstacles remain even on medium-range missiles, or "intermediate-range nuclear forces" (INF) as they are known; but the tabling by the Soviet Union of a draft treaty last week raised cautious hopes that serious bargaining could begin.

Medium-range missiles can travel 1,000-5,000 km. They include Soviet triple-warhead SS-20 rockets and U.S. Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles based in Western Europe.

Diplomats who follow the Geneva talks doubt whether an agreement can be reached in time for a planned summit in the United States this year between Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Reagan.

Plans for the summit were announced after the two leaders first met in Geneva last November, but the diplomats believe Mr. Gorbachev would prefer to sign an agreement at a further summit which has also been provisionally scheduled in Moscow next year.

A summer month such as July, when the Soviet capital would be looking its best, seemed the most likely time, they added.

This scenario would leave open the question of how to justify this year's summit, for which no date has been fixed. Mr. Gorbachev has repeatedly said the summit needs an improvement in the East-West climate and must produce tangible results.

Diplomats suggested any agreement reached at the 35-nation European disarmament conference in Stockholm could serve as a peg for a summit in late November or December.

The conference, due to end in September, is discussing measures to build confidence between nations such as advance notification of military activities.

Alternatively, diplomats said, any progress in limiting chemical weapons or nuclear tests could be invoked.

Soviet diplomats would not be drawn on the suggestion that Mr. Gorbachev wanted to sign an INF deal in Moscow. "This is speculation," one said. "The most important thing is an agreement. Where to sign it would be easier to agree."

The relative optimism expressed by both superpowers about the outcome of the INF talks contrasts with much gloomier assessments by some neutral observers.

Some West European NATO diplomats say the issues are too complex and the sides too far apart for any agreement. The talks are merely an end in themselves, to keep Moscow and Washington in contact and prevent a rise in East-West tensions, they say.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies went further in a report last week. It accused Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev of "peddling

humbug to a gullible and hopeful public" with unrealistic proposals to eliminate nuclear arms.

There are two main problems in the INF talks.

The Soviet Union has proposed the abolition of all medium-range missiles in Europe over five to eight years, but wants Britain and France to freeze their nuclear forces at present levels. This is unacceptable to Washington, London and Paris.

The U.S. calls for the abolition of medium-range missiles over three years, but says this should include SS-20s in Soviet Asia which threaten Far Eastern nations and can be transported to Europe. Moscow rejects this, saying the Asian missiles counter U.S. nuclear forces in the Pacific.

Underlying other issues is the problem of verification. The U.S. is expected to produce new proposals on this during the current session of Geneva talks which began on May 8, and the Soviet Union is expected to reject them as too intrusive.

Despite the difficulties, several solutions to outstanding problems have been suggested, both publicly and privately.

Western diplomats say the issue of British and French missiles could be put off if the Soviet Union agreed to discuss them in the strategic rather than the medium-range negotiating group.

A Soviet general wrote in March that Moscow might make a pledge not to move missiles from Asia to Europe provided the U.S. promised not to move Pershing-2s from America to Europe.

Some diplomats speculate that an accord could emerge whereby the U.S. would retain some medium-range missiles in Western Europe and the Soviet Union would keep some in Asia.

This type of solution would have the advantage for NATO of soothing the West Europeans' fears that the total removal of American missiles would leave them exposed to Soviet short-range nuclear rockets and conventional forces.

The Soviet draft treaty tabled last week was said by chief U.S. negotiator Max Kampelman to be merely an amalgam of previous Soviet proposals, containing nothing essentially new.

Soviet officials objected to the apparent belittling of their initiative. One official admitted that the draft "flows from the fundamental initial approach of the Soviet Union" but said it was designed to get the talks down to brass tacks.

In general, Washington welcomed the Soviet move. White House spokesman Larry Speakes hoped it "would indicate that the Soviets are becoming serious about the arms control talks."

Little progress is in sight on strategic missiles. Despite the declared readiness of both sides to halve their strategic forces, the Soviets do not conceal that they are linking an agreement to America's abandonment of its "Star Wars" space weapons programme.

The Reagan administration is resolved to continue research into what it calls a Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), using new technologies to shoot down ballistic missiles in flight.

The Soviet Union demands a total ban on what it terms "space-strike weapons," embracing all space-based weapons, whatever their target, and all anti-satellite weapons, wherever based.

Washington believes that the time needed to develop SDI, the possibility of budgetary restrictions on the programme, and the need to comply with the 1974 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile treaty may all lead the Soviet Union to conclude there is no hurry to reach an agreement on space weapons.



U.S. aggression threatens friend and foe alike

The following article by Gerald Butts, BBC Radio's Middle East correspondent, appeared under the same headline in the April issue of The Listener, a magazine issued by the BBC.

IT was awkward moment, but the American diplomat didn't seem to sense it. It happened during a dinner-table discussion a few weeks ago with his British opposite number. They had disagreed strongly, but always in the most polite diplomatic language, about American policy towards Libya. The British diplomat, defending the European decision not to back Washington in imposing sanctions, said that America was inflating both Colonel Qadhafi and his country (with its tiny population) beyond the level of its real importance. And he criticised the threat of using military force against Libya.

It was at this point that things started becoming awkward. For listening to this conversation had been a government minister of the host country — one traditionally friendly to the United States. He kept politely silent, but was scarcely able to hide his unease. In the end, he turned to the American and said: "Please, Ambassador. If you use force you'll embarrass us again, and we'll have no choice but to stand up for Colonel Qadhafi." The ambassador replied to the effect that it was time someone taught Qadhafi a lesson: force was the only language he understood. America has now used force; her Arab friends are embarrassed and dismayed. For while most of them dislike Qadhafi's Libya as much as Washington does, they see American policy as being heavy-handed and, in the end, counter-productive.

Most Arab regimes spend most of their energy on staying in power. To put it crudely, those who have thrown in their lot with the Americans are feeling distinctly uncomfortable. They have all issued their ritualistic denunciations of the United States, but it's more serious than that. They believe that successive foreign policy blunders in the region over the past few years have left them not just embarrassed, but also vulnerable to pressures from both inside and outside their own countries. These pressures from the Left, or from Muslim fundamentalists, could eventually see the downfall of some of the regimes on which the United States depends to keep her influence alive in the Arab World. As one senior U.S. diplomat told me: "We keep them on a limb, comfortable in the belief that they need us more than we need them. Because none of our friends in the Arab World has fallen so far, we believe that none ever will."

The Americans do not seem to appreciate the level of popular hatred for their policies, much as most Arabs are eager to enjoy the comforts offered by American society. There really is great dis-

appointment at the way in which Washington treats the Arab World. Jordan is as bitter as any country. The Americans have failed to give King Hussein the backing he believes he deserves in trying to get the peace process going; and even when the U.S. administration has judged that Jordan has deserved help, Congress has blocked arms sales, forcing Jordan to turn bitterly to Moscow and elsewhere. Shortly after one occasion, when a block had been put on a weapons order, I was speaking to a consultant in one of the ministries in Amman. "I am an unconsulted consultant," he said. In his view, Jordan and all the Arab states should retaliate by refusing to trade with the United States, in the way that they had imposed an oil embargo in 1973. Unrealistic, of course. A sign, though, of the anger which is felt towards Washington.

For America's Arab friends, this has been a profoundly dep-

laid me, "for fear of what Ronald Reagan might have done now." I asked another diplomat how much concern there was in the White House about the effect of U.S. policy on America's Arab friends.

"Next to none," came the reply. "The Libya business was pre-planned for domestic consumption. The White House doesn't give a fig for what the people in Tunis or Cairo may think." The diplomat, an Arabist and an experienced Middle East operator, went on: "I don't want another posting back in this region. I'm tired of lying and trying to defend U.S. policies here."

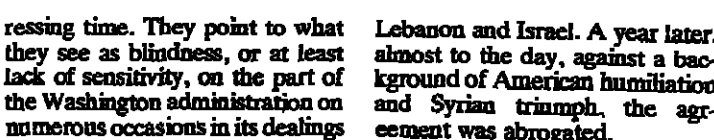
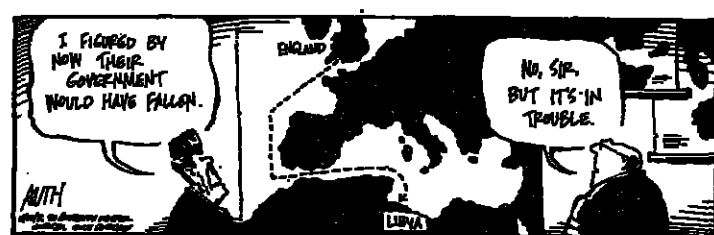
It's hard to see exactly where things go wrong. But certainly much of the daily reporting from U.S. embassies either never gets beyond the State Department or is ignored by the White House. Some American diplomats believe that the Secretary of State, George Shultz, is deliberately ignoring the Middle East out of bitterness because, against his department's advice, he insisted on pressing ahead with the May 1983 troop withdrawal agreement between

and the United States' embassies in the region get higher, and the diplomats bunker themselves in. Consultants and architects from the State Department hastily draw up new plans for new and safer embassy buildings. For the time being, embassy staff rehearse emergency procedures. They and their families have been put on maximum alert as they await the next public pronouncement from Washington ("you should hear what my wife says about Ronald Reagan," one senior diplomat told me).

All around the Middle East, hapless U.S. diplomats brace themselves for the next kidnap or assassination. They are victims of an American policy (or, rather, lack of policy) towards a region about which it has ceased to care. destroyed the American embassy. From then on, the U.S. administration began to close its files on the Middle East. For a while, the giant lashed out: the battleship USS New Jersey and other warships tossed massive shells into the interior of Lebanon; field guns from the U.S. contingent of the multinational "peace-keeping force" struck back at Muslim attackers. The slaughter of more than 240 marines in another suicide bombing was written on the final page of America's Lebanon file.

The military option had failed, but so too had the political one. Perhaps the biggest failure of American credibility in the region came in 1982, in an episode often quoted by King Hussein and the chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat. In September of that year, after the Israeli invasion and the massacres of Palestinians in the refugee camps in Sabra and Shatila, President Reagan announced that the Israeli army would be out of Lebanon by the start of 1983. As we entered the second quarter of 1986, the Israelis are still in southern Lebanon. If President Reagan had been able to deliver on that one promise, the respect for America would have been much higher than it is today; those parties to the peace process who are uncertain whether or not to commit themselves might have had the necessary courage.

Instead, Washington has found itself pushed more and more into a corner, losing the respect of those Arab countries which believed, or at least wanted to believe, that it intended to use its influence to bring about a Middle East settlement. King Hussein, among others, has said that uncritical American support for Israel has eliminated any chance that Washington can play the role of honest broker in the region. All America's Arab friends sit by and cower as U.S. jets strike at Libya. And if many of the Arabs are feeling uncomfortable, so too are a good many American diplomats in the region. "I tremble every



Italian minister launches anti-smoking crusade

By Philip Pulella

Reuter

ROME — Italian Health Minister Costante Degan has begun an aggressive drive to stop Italians from smoking, but he has run into a wall of opposition, not least from some of his colleagues in the cabinet.

Degan, who quit smoking only recently, has taken on the formidable task of persuading Italians, among the heaviest smokers in Western Europe, to give up.

He has proposed a tough law that, if passed, would make it illegal for Italians to smoke almost anywhere except outdoors or in their homes or cars.

In a country where many people light up with their morning espresso and some government leaders can't make it through a news conference without a puff, Degan's crusade is likely to be an uphill battle.

Smoking is already illegal in cinemas, theatres, schools, museums, hospitals and on public transport.

Under Degan's proposal it would also become illegal to smoke in shops, bars, restaurants, hotel lobbies, public and private offices and on planes — virtually all enclosed spaces where a smoker is in contact with other people. Fines would range from 5,000 to 50,000 lire (\$3.30 to \$33). Smoking would also be prohibited on television programmes like talk shows.

Degan might meet opposition from his boss, Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who often lights up a menthol cigarette during televised interviews or news conferences. And smokers in Craxi's cabinet outnumber non-smokers by 17 to

13. One of the 17, Minister for Relations with Parliament Oscar Mammi, has threatened to form an "association of friends of tobacco" if the proposed law is not softened.

"Branded, shunned like plague victims, forced to meet in secret to consume the 'satanic' rite of the cigarette."

That is the Milan newspaper Il Giornale's prediction of life for Italy's estimated 20 million smokers if Degan's law goes through as proposed.

Degan says his law, which would have to be approved by the cabinet and eventually by parliament, is not against smokers or tobacco but against cancer.

He said there was no difference between banning food contaminated by radiation that might cause cancer, as the government did recently in the wake of the Soviet nuclear plant accident, and passing laws to limit cancer caused by smoking.

"If we have to declare war on cancer this must be done on all fronts. We certainly cannot disregard smoking, which is the most important," he said.

Degan, who gave up smoking last year after puffing for 20 years, said he was greatly influenced by a study which showed non-smokers who live with smokers also risk tumours.

According to Maria Grazia Lanfranco, head of the anti-smoking office of the League Against Tumours, a government-sponsored cancer research agency, Italians smoke 1.8 kilos of tobacco per capita annually, three times as much as they did in 1950.

Restoration almost complete as Statue of Liberty nears centennial celebration

By Nick Taylor

USA

ONLY the faint outline of the Statue of Liberty is visible through the gauzy shroud of scaffolding that surrounds her in New York City's harbour. Workers are swarming over her, accompanied by the sounds of hammers, saws, and drills. A construction elevator climbs impertinently up and down her right flank.

In her bedraggled state, she is still a sight to stir the soul.

Miss Liberty — Liberty Enlightening the World is her proper name — was a gift of France to the United States dedicated 100 years ago last October. She is undergoing a major restoration. It will be completed by July 4, 1986. Lee A. Iacocca, chairman of the private fund-raising effort that is financing the \$62 million restoration, says that her 100th birthday "will be the biggest party this country has ever seen."

The highlight of that party will be the relighting of the torch, which was removed on July 4, 1984. The torch that is relighted will not be the one that was taken down, however. A new one, hammered out by French artisans in the same painstaking repousse process used to form the original, will take its place. It will flicker with a copper flame covered by gold leaf, lit by spotlights in the torch's balcony.

The relighting of the torch of liberty will culminate an exhaustive effort that began in 1980 with the founding of the French-American Committee for the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty. Even earlier, signs of wear had begun to show on the famous 453-metre statue, which welcomed millions of immigrants to a new life in America. Her basic constitution was good, according to a two-year survey by a team of French and American architects and engineers; but the copper skin

had begun to show daylight in places. Some of the iron bars that form the skeleton had warped and buckled. The unjoined lattice-work of 1,600 iron supports, or armatures, that are shaped to the skin and hold it from the inside, had corroded and lost most of the insulation that prevented damaging chemical reactions between the iron and the copper.

The torch, off limits to visitors since 1916, was in the worst shape. Except for a few grafts over thin spots in the copper skin, it is the only part of the statue's exterior that is actually being replaced.

Ten young Frenchmen were brought from Reims to construct the replacements: the flame, the torch's elaborately curved balcony, and the pendant at the base of the torch. One of them, 28-year-old Philippe Poncet, interrupted his hammering one day to say that he was "very happy" to be in New York for a year or so

working on his country's gift to the United States.

Inside there will be many changes. Visitors to the restored statue will be able to see the copper and its original hammer marks. Six layers of paint were removed with liquid nitrogen — which freezes, causing the paint to shrink and flake away — revealing with up-to-date technology the methods used 100 years ago.

Much of what the visitor sees inside the statue will be visible for the first time. The statue's 26.7-metre pedestal is being renovated as well. Floors that were added after it was built are being removed, opening a grant interior space that can be viewed from North America's highest hydraulic elevator. The double-deck glass-walled elevator will carry passengers from the statue's base to the top of the pedestal, offering dramatic viewing of the statue's underpinnings.



Experts find Egypt's High Dam to be quake-proof

By Ahmed Shawki

Reuter

ASWAN, Egypt — Egyptian authorities have reinforced the Aswan High Dam on the River Nile, shoring up the giant concrete structure against earthquakes or bombs.

"It is quake-proof and all the studies show it is safe," pronounced Salah Shihab, chairman of the Dam Authority. "It can even withstand bombing."

Fortunately, the 104 metre-high dam, completed by Soviet engineers in 1970, has never been put to the test against bombs.

But alarm bells rang when Aswan, a business centre and resort of 750,000 people, was shaken by mild tremors in 1981. Authorities feared a strong quake could destroy the dam and endanger millions living along the Nile, the lifeline of Egypt.

A dam burst would unleash a massive torrent of water from the 2,000 square-mile Lake Nasser and could threaten the capital Cairo some 600 miles downstream.

A study ordered after the 1981 tremors reported last month that a big shock was unlikely and that even in the event of one, one billion-dollar dam would withstand it.

"But we are not taking any chances," Shihab told Reuters.

Shihab said the dam, which has a hydro-electric plant generating half the power for Egypt's 50 million people, could withstand an earthquake of up to 12 on the Richter scale.

The tremors five years ago, registered 5.2, damaged buildings in Aswan and sent rocks tumbling into the river, nearly blocking the power station's water outlets.

Shihab said the recent \$8.4-million study, funded by Egypt and the U.S. Agency for International Development, showed Aswan risked tremors up to 7.0 at worst.

Shihab said safety measures installed since 1981 included a network of 13 seismic stations to give advance quake warnings.

A concrete-and-rock "safety belt" has been built as a shield against mines, underwater attacks

and tremors. Engineers are now completing a \$1.5-million project to remove boulder debris and widen the shoreline.

"We have our own devices to detect any sabotage operations," Shihab added.

No such attacks have been reported. But officials recall that when a Libyan pilot defected to Egypt in 1984 with his warplane, authorities said he had been trained to bomb the dam.

Egypt and Libya have been at odds since Muammar Qadhafi came to power in Tripoli and nearly went to war in 1977.

The Aswan area is well-protected by Egypt's armed forces. Anti-aircraft batteries around the dam are visible from the air.

The history of the High Dam has symbolised political and diplomatic changes in Egypt.

The United States refused to finance the initial project and President Jamal Abdul Nasser turned to Moscow.

When the first stage was completed in 1964, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev came to Aswan and hailed it as a lasting symbol of friendship between the two countries.

A big monument to Soviet-Egyptian ties endures at the dam — despite Cairo's switch to the United States as a superpower ally under Nasser's successor Anwar Sadat.

However, American engineers have been called in to replace Soviet turbines in the hydro-electric plant.

The first two of 12 new American-made stainless steel turbines went into use this month and the others will be installed over the next four years in a \$100-million scheme funded from U.S. AID.

Shihab rejected suggestions the dam had harmed farming. On the contrary, he said, it had helped farmers by regulating the flow of the Nile and saving Egypt from drought.

Drought further south had caused the river's flow to drop drastically in the last six years and a third of Egypt's arable land would have been threatened without the dam, Shihab said.

French publisher prints Pravda in German

By Arnd Baucker

PRAVDA, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper, has been published in German.

A German-language issue is selling for DM4. In Moscow the paper costs three kopecks, about 12 pfennigs.

The German issue is published in France by a Parisian firm, Societe Mega Medias, which already sells French and Italian issues.

The success of these editions encouraged the firm to put 333,000 copies on the West German, Austrian and Swiss markets.

The publisher stresses that the newspaper has been translated very literally without any attempt at an interpretation.

Because Pravda contradicts to a large extent elementary rules of Western journalism, it remains to be seen whether the translated version will have lasting success after the initial curiosity value of

the exotic product has worn off.

The paper is dominated by articles or reports derived from everyday socialism, with headings like "In the Politburo of the Communist Party."

The language is often formal and pathetic. What sounds tolerable in Russian is bombastic and difficult to read in German.

Admittedly if one involves oneself more intensively with the paper, one can find much more than bleak propaganda.

The way the paper arranges particular themes is informative as to what the Communist Party's priorities are.

Recently the paper has endeavoured to fall in line with Mr. Gorbachev's modernisation campaign.

It has expressed itself in increasingly more open language, which shows up also even in the letters that are published — Stuttgarter Nachrichten.



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AZURE

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Jordan Rally a candidate for a spot in 1988 world championship title series

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Rally, a permanent fixture of Middle East motor sporting events, has taken a definite first step towards acquiring the coveted distinction of being nominated as one of the world championship events as of 1988, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) announced Sunday.

The Fédération de l'Automobile Internationale (FIA), the highest international body in charge of motor sporting events around the world, has informed the RACJ that the 1987 Jordan Rally will be an official candidate for inclusion in the World Championship series the following year, RACJ General Manager Derek Ledger said.

The FISA decision came after strongly favourable media comments on the 1986 Jordan Rally, which was held last month, and a recommendation by a special FISA observer who monitored the event, said Mr. Ledger.

FISA observers also attended previous rallies held in Jordan and issued strong recommendations in favour of the event being included in the world class series.

Nomination as a World Championship event is a much sought after distinction for the Jordan Rally, organised annually by the RACJ. The Jordan Rally enjoys wide popularity and a reputation of one of the best organised events in the Middle East and it was only a matter of time before FISA adjudged it a world class event, according to journalists who covered the this year's three-day rally last month.

The Jordan Rally has been steadily chalking up increasing points in the FISA evaluation. The 1985

event secured 126 points out of a possible 150, a higher score than that received by several other world championship events.

"This is undoubtedly an honour for Jordan," said Mr. Ledger, the mastermind behind reviving rallying as a sport in Jordan. "It reflects the high standard and reputation that the Jordan Rally has achieved in the six years since its inception."

However, Mr. Ledger added, although "it is gratifying to be even considered for world championship status, it is also difficult to achieve this supreme level."

"Many additional requirements in equipment and manpower will be required, though everything necessary is within the capability of the organisers of the rally and through the various government departments, all of which provide unconditional cooperation," he added.

The FISA evaluation process involves a close scrutiny of the organisational aspects of rallying. The process includes assessing the actual behind-the-scenes efforts that go into organising a rally and which are reflected in the conduct of the actual event.

The FISA assessment covers every phase of rallying — distance and nature of terrain, specifications set by the organisers for vehicles as well as drivers, com-

munications arrangements, stand-by emergency personnel and equipment, competence of supervisors and officials, advertising and media involvement, compilation of results and prizes offered.

Mr. Ledger expects that the biggest problem for Jordan to qualify for the 1988 World Championship series would be stiff competition from other candidates, including the U.S., India, Morocco and Malaysia.

However, Jordan has an edge over its competitors in several respects, he said. "We are within easy reach of Europe by land, sea and air, this is important to car manufacturers who are mainly European," he pointed out. "Furthermore, Jordan can guarantee good weather in summer and the Jordan Rally combines a unique variety of European and desert terrain which cannot be found elsewhere."

Perhaps the most important factor behind the success of the Jordan Rally over the years was the regular staging of a national championship series. The RACJ organised at least three national events every year since 1981, thereby acquiring valued organisational experience and preparing world class Jordanian drivers.

The Jordan Rally brings together talented drivers from most Gulf states and Cyprus. A record number of drivers from the Gulf, Lebanon and Cyprus participated in the 1986 event. An additional draw for the Jordan Rally is the fact that Qatar's Saad Al Hajri, winner of the 1986 rally and the only Arab driver to successfully launch a rallying career on the international circuit, "graduated" through the tough desert and hillside tracks of the Jordan Rally.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Runners bag \$500,000 prizes

LAKE TAHOE, Nevada (R) — The winners of an all-American amateur 10 kilometre street race Saturday earned \$10,000 a year each for 50 years. Jeffrey Smith, 24, a biology student from Colorado, won the men's part of the winners-take-all super run in 30 minutes and 52 seconds. Mary Sperry, 25, a fitness instructor from Vermont, won the women's division in 37:58. The winners will receive the money from a life insurance annuity paid for by a beer company.

Paper says N.Korea to host some events

LONDON (AP) — Communist North Korea will host some events of the 1988 Olympic Games to be held in Seoul, South Korea, the Sunday Observer reported, quoting unspecified "intelligence sources." The respected liberal weekly predicted that the "splitting" of the games between two countries will cause misgivings among other member nations of the International Olympic Committee. The newspaper said: "If ratified by the 92-member IOC, the agreement would ensure full East-West participation in the 1988 Olympics, the first since the U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games."

Teamwork will be key factor, according to S.Korean coach

By Andrew Warshaw
AP Sports Writer

MEXICO CITY — South Korean coach Kim Jong-Nam, whose team is one of the Cinderellas of the 1986 World Cup soccer competition beginning May 31, says teamwork, not individual talent, will be the key factor in the upcoming tournament.

"As the matches will be played in stadiums of high altitude, the team with the best teamwork, not physical strength or individual players, will be the winner," he said Saturday.

South Korea, participating in the World Cup finals for the second time, plays in Group A with Argentina, Italy and Bulgaria.

Kim told a news conference that the three group rivals did not worry him.

"Sometimes, teams adopt a psychological strategy," he said. "Italy has been saying (Paolo) Rossi is tired, Argentina claims (Diego) Maradona is not at his best. We do not believe this."

Kim's team underlined its goal-scoring ability with a 5-1 win earlier Saturday over Mexican First Division side Coyotes De Neza in a training match in Mexico City.

Cha Bum-Keun, who plays for Bayer Leverkusen in the West German Bundesliga, scored three of the goals.

"We are still not in the best condition to play Argentina" in the Koreans' first group match on June 2, said Kim. "But maybe we will have the same luck in scoring goals."

Meanwhile, French coach Henri Michel refused to panic after his talented side, the defending European champion, could only draw 1-1 with the Mexican under-21 team.

"There is nothing to worry about," Michel told a news conference after the disappointing showing at Tlaxcala. "It was very hot and the players were clearly affected."

"You have to take into account that we had a match three days ago," he added. "Certain players were completely out of form."

Michel did not identify the players concerned but among those who were clearly not on top form was midfielder Luis Fernandez, who was sent off for a dangerous foul on his return to competitive action following an ankle injury.

"The young Mexicans provided us with serious competition. They were playing the match of their lives," said Michel, whose team plays in Group C with the Soviet Union, Hungary and Canada.

Despite dominating the game, the French created few chances and had to rely on a 38th-minute penalty by midfielder maestro Michel Platini to level the score after the Mexicans had gone in front.

Meanwhile, the condition of ace English striker Gary Lineker was reported to have improved on the eve of his team's departure for Monterrey in northern Mexico, where it will be based during the first round of the tournament.

Lineker was injured during England's 1-0 win over Canada in Vancouver earlier Saturday and was at first suspected to have sustained a broken wrist.

But reports from Vancouver said the Everton striker, who scored 40 goals in the domestic English season just completed and who is expected to lead his country's attack during the World Cup, had suffered merely a sprain.

"There's no fracture, thank goodness," Lineker said from his hotel after the game. "It's a bad sprain and I should be okay for Mexico."

Manton hopes to challenge Arabs

By David Thompson

Reuter

LONDON — Deep in the heart of southern England, the painstaking Michael Dickinson secretly and methodically plans to counter Arab dominance of British horse racing.

Dickinson, 36, private trainer to top owner and breeder Robert Sangster, is the new master of Manton, the historic stables set in 900 hectares of rolling Wiltshire countryside untouched by the 20th Century.

Since it was built in 1870, Manton, under four different trainers, has sent out 40 English Classic winners. After the 1973 retirement of George Todd, who trained Sodium to win the 1966 St. Leger, Manton passed into the hands of a property developer.

But when Sangster, stunned by Dickinson's precocious talent, recruited the Yorkshireman two years ago he badly needed the right training environment to launch a counter-attack on the Arabs, who last year won four of the five English Classics.

Manton was ideal. Now the \$15 million investment is moving steadily towards top gear with a string of 46 beautifully-bred race-horses housed in one of the world's most modern and imposing training establishments.

Manton has given Sangster 49, fresh impetus. The Isle of Man-based magnate has a long list of big race successes all over the world to his credit, including two Epsom Derbies, two French Derbies, two Irish Derbies and three Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe.

But when Manton threw its doors open to the world's press this week it was clear Sangster and Dickinson were ready for more winners.

"I am a competitor and always have been and my aim is always to

endeavour to be number one. It was with this as my objective that I started my search for a trainer," Sangster said.

"Michael, at his age, with all that he has achieved in such a short national hunt (jumping) career, his boundless enthusiasm and dedication to detail, had to be the man."

Dickinson, formerly a successful jump jockey, captured the racing world's imagination with an awe-inspiring feat in the 1983 Cheltenham Gold Cup when he saddled the first five home.

It was largely that success which catapulted him into flat racing's glamour job — master of Manton with its 11 separate gallops, 60 boxes, 65-strong staff, two hostels, 20 houses, football and cricket pitches, tennis court, lake, discotheque, swimming pool, public house — and massive security.

Visitors to Manton have to go through a series of checks which would not disgrace an international airport. Some would say security is overdone but it is typical of Dickinson's approach to the job that nothing is overlooked.

Memos on every subject from feeding to time off for relatives' funerals adorn notice boards as Dickinson, an immaculate man himself, strives for perfection all around.

The striving has yet to pay off on the racetrack. Dickinson's only two Manton representatives so far have run four races between them — setting precisely nothing.

But nobody is worried. Dickinson said: "Robert is a perfect man to work for. He has not put any pressure on me at all."

And Sangster told Reuters: "I would be happy with half a dozen winners this season, doubling up the following year and again in 1988. If we haven't struck by then that is when I'll begin worrying."

By striking Sangster means turn-

ning out a group one winner, preferably a Derby victor, which would pay for the massive investment three or four times over.

For the moment though it is fairly low key. All but seven of Manton's inmates are two-year-olds, unlikely to be at their peak inside 12 months, and half of them may not even race this season.

When the stable is firing on all cylinders it faces a stiff task to stem the Arab challenge, which grows stronger every year.

In 1985 the Maktoum family of Dubai virtually monopolised the classics. This season Prince Khalid Abdullah of Saudi Arabia has already won the 2,000 guineas and he owns the first and third favourites for next month's Epsom Derby.

Sangster welcomes the Arab presence and relishes the contest. "To me the wonderful thing is that Manton is a privately-owned and British-funded enterprise from which we are going to challenge the best in the international racing world," he said.

"I find this exciting in these days of multi-billion dollar takeovers and the large foreign investment that is finding its way into British racing."

For Dickinson, whose mother Monica still trains jumpers, the glory of Manton is a far cry from the mid-1970s when as a jockey he raced on the unglamorous Northern Circuit for a pittance.

Now with Sangster's millions behind him, the future, despite the slow start, looks rosy indeed. "Nothing is guaranteed in this life," said Sangster, who has had his fair share of heartbreak on the racetrack. "But I do know that everyone connected with Manton is giving it their best shot and it won't be for want of trying if the Manton horses don't greet the judge."

Belgians adjust to Toluca's heat, height

By Robert Woodward

Reuter

TOLUCA, Mexico — The hotel shared by the World Cup soccer squads from Belgium, Uruguay and Bulgaria is not hard to find.

Past the police car dump, turn right along the bumpy dirt road for half a kilometre and there it is, opposite the building site for a new flyover.

Noise from the pneumatic drills hammers its way inside, rattling the ice in the cocktail glasses. A light coating of dust settles on the displays of Mexican ceramics.

But the players don't seem to mind.

"The hotel suits us fine, the food is especially good," says Belgian Frankie Vercauteren as he signs autographs before heading

for a siesta.

The Belgians certainly look relaxed and fit but many of their fans here are concerned the team have left their arrival too late to adjust properly to the heat and altitude.

They arrived here last Thursday, just two weeks before their opening game against hosts Mexico in the Aztec Stadium.

Belgian team official, however, believe the players are already fit enough to overcome any problems which may arise during their stay here in the mountains an hour west of the capital.

"Sure, a few players have not yet reached full fitness. But it's the first hard training today and I'm sure they will all have adjusted by the first game," said team doctor Jan Redant as he watched 21 of his players work out in the evening light on a pitch graced usually by the General Motors works team.

Defender Frankie Van Der Elst is the missing player before the squad announced on Friday. He has been in bed for the last three days after an attack of angina and he looks set for another week on

his back.

Belgium team coach Guy Thys plans to put his players through the fitness mill in the next two days and reach flat-out training by Wednesday.

Any remaining acclimatisation problems are likely to be exposed on Thursday when his side will take on Mexican First Division side Los Pumas.

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AMMAN JORDAN

Wilander faces tough French Open

PARIS (R) — Mats Wilander, the 21-year-old Swede with four Grand Slam titles to his name, will have to resist the challenge of one of the toughest French Open fields ever if he is to retain his title at the championships starting Monday.

Wilander became the youngest-ever winner at Roland Garros when he took the title against Guillermo Vilas in 1982 at the age of 17.

Mansell wins Belgian Prix

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell made a bad mistake and almost ran out of fuel but overcame the twin dramas to emerge triumphant in the Belgian Motor Racing Grand Prix Sunday.

Mansell's third world championship victory, his first of the season, bounced him back into contention for this year's world title.

The Williams driver, determined and courageous as ever on the fast and majestic SPA Francorchamps circuit, left the Lotus of Ayrton Senna in second place, almost 20 seconds adrift — but the

Brazilian's equally impressive performance lifted him back to the top of the standings.

Ferrari pair Stefan Johansson of Sweden and Italian-Michele Alboreto came third and fourth, the best performance by the Italian team for a long time.

Frenchman Jacques Laffite was fifth in his Ligier followed by reigning champion and compatriot Alain Prost, who made a brilliant recovery in his McLaren after being involved in a multi-car melee on the very first corner.

Prost's charge from 20th place to sixth earned him one championship point.

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More Arab banks join London orbit as sophisticated financial era dawns

In a state of cosmic ferment, London's financial community is fast preparing for that magic date, Oct. 27 when new rules open dealing on its stock exchange to vastly heightened competition. The changes are being likened to a cosmic explosion, heralding the birth of a new era in which London may aspire to challenge Wall Street.

London has long been a banking centre of planetary importance but as a centre for the full range of financial services it has in recent years been outdone by the rise of superpower like New York and Tokyo.

The new stock exchange rules, the first of which came into play on March 1 (when ownership of stockbroking firms was thrown open to all comers), are designed to alter that and put London back on the galactic map. The consequences, for all banks and financial institutions in Britain, whether they are directly concerned with stock exchange dealing or not, will be dramatic. Demand for all types of financial services is bound to increase, as well as competition for investors' funds.

As if gearing up for this new era in London's financial history, Arab banks and financial institutions in London have continued to grow in both number and spread of activity. A list prepared by Arab British Commerce in February 1986 shows that there are at least 70 Arab banks and financial institutions in London, representing almost every Arab country and providing an enormous range of services.

London's main attraction for foreign banks and financial institutions has traditionally been its importance as an international banking centre. Many Arab institutions seeking to widen their overseas links chose London as their first port of call. Recent experience has made London even more attractive in other ways. Although London salaries for some types of banking expertise are now spiralling rapidly upwards, costs of maintaining a bank office in London are considerably lower than in New York.

The Arab banks' presence in London dates back at least to 1952 when Rafidain Bank of Iraq opened an office. But their presence has grown particularly strongly in the last decade.

Today, the Arab financial community in London includes several leading national Arab banks, numerous consortia banks (some wholly Arab-owned, some Euro-Arab), at least three Islamic banks and numerous investment companies. Additions in 1985 included the Commercial Bank of Kuwait and Bahrain Middle East Bank which opened representative offices in February and June respectively.

In early 1986, National Bank of Dubai (NBD) received Bank of England approval to open as a licensed deposit taker. Its branch in Sloane Square is expected to open soon. Two Saudi Arabian banks, Saudi British Bank and Arab National Bank, are also expected to open offices.

The Arab financial community in London includes eleven banks with "recognised" status (entitling them to carry out all types of banking services) and a further 18 licensed deposit takers (not counting the recently-licensed NBD). One recent addition to the recognised list is Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the big Bahrain-based bank owned by Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Libya, which was upgraded in September 1985. New licensed deposit takers are the Islamic bank Al Baraka International and Jordan Finance Consortium. Further changes are pending, with at least three Arab banks currently negotiating with the Bank of England for a change of status.

Jordan Finance Consortium provides interesting example

The Jordan Finance Consortium (JFC) provides an interesting example of how Arab banks and financial institutions have made London their home. Founded in London in 1984 as a U.K.-registered institution, JFC (owned by 16 Jordanian institutions) was the first wholly-owned Jordanian financial institution to be headquartered outside Jordan. It later expanded outwards to its home country, recently opening a representative office in Amman.

Among the most seasoned inhabitants of London is United Bank of Kuwait (UBK) which this year celebrates its 20th anniversary as a U.K.-registered London bank. UBK has seen considerable expansion in the last few years and its recently-announced pre-tax profit of £12.4 million in 1985 (up from £10.8 million in 1984) shows that it continues to do brisk business. Total assets managed by UBK grew by 20 per cent in 1985 to £2,260 million and shareholders agreed on March 3, 1986 to raise the bank's paid-in capital by a third to £100 million.

Arab banks and financial institutions in London represent almost all Arab countries. Gulf International Bank (GIB), for instance, represents seven Gulf states while many Arab countries are among the shareholders of another consortium bank, UBAF. Probably the largest representation, however, is from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Lebanon. The increased presence of Saudi Arabian banks has been one of the recent features of Arab banking in London.

In addition to the two banks preparing to open offices, Saudi Arabia is represented in London by its majority bank (SIB). The two wholly Saudi Arabian-owned banks, Riyad Bank and National Commercial Bank, both have a London presence in their own right and Saudi American Bank (Samba) has a representative office.

Many Arab or majority Arab-owned banks now have more than one branch in London. Leader in this field is Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) with 29 London branches. UBK has three retail branches in addition to its head office.

Among those adding to their branch networks in 1985 were JFC, Banque du Liban and d'Outre-Mer and Arab African International Bank of Cairo. They were joined early this year by National Bank of Egypt which on Feb. 24 opened a second branch.

Both Arab banks and financial institutions have considerably diversified their activities in the last few years. Several banks now boast more than one subsidiary.

SIB, for instance, now has at least four subsidiaries, including SIB Leasing and SIB Capital Investments. UBK's London subsidiaries include UBK Property Services (formerly called UBK Customer Services) and UBK Leasing Finance.

A major growth area is trade finance and several Arab banks in London have set up subsidiaries specialising in such services. These include: AAB Export Finance, formed following the acquisition last year of Henry Ansbacher Export Finance by Allied Arab Bank; Al Saudi Export Finance owned by the Paris-based Al Saudi Banque which has two London branches; and Exfinco, the export finance house in which ABC has a minority share. ABC has also moved into merchant banking in London with the setting up of a merchant banking arm ABC International.

Financial services provided by Arab investment companies and other institutions are also considerably diversified. As Dr. Walid Nazy of the London-based Capital Trust, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Capital Trust of Luxembourg, explained to Arab British Commerce, each Arab investment company in London has a different origin and specialises in a different type of product. Capital Trust itself is a unique case. It was founded in Luxembourg in 1985, then buying Capital Guidance which had been established in London in 1977 and specialised in portfolio management, investment services and real estate.

Capital Trust has built on the experience of its predecessor to widen its services to private individual and institutional investors. Such services now include direct investment and acquisitions, private placements, joint venture analysis and negotiation, corporate reorganisation and restructuring and asset disposal.

Although Capital Trust is based in Luxembourg and London, much of its work is outside the U.K., illustrating the importance of London as a centre for international transactions.

Perhaps most revealing as an indication of how Arab banks are diversifying in London is the recent acquisition, by BA II, of the London stockbroking firm Shephards and Chase. BAII began by buying 29.9 per cent of the stockbroking firm in 1985, increasing its ownership to 100 per cent on March 1, 1986 when outside institutions became eligible for full ownership of stock exchange members.

The move marks the Arab banks' stock exchange debut and may well be succeeded by more forays as other Arab banks follow BAII's lead - Arab British Commerce.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.

ACROSS
1 Nips or sage
5 Curved path
10 World alliance
14 Cracking
15 Sows
16 Mother of
17 Helen of Troy
20 Damaged e.g.
21 New entrance
22 CIA's predecessor
23 Alliance letters
25 Earth
27 Envy
36 Lead up
38 Alliance letters
39 Ivy League
40 Young men
42 Distinguished
43 - same as
44 Put - to (British)
46 Hebrew month
48 Soldiers' go.
49 Diplomatic official
53 Lab burner
54 Do a schuss
55 Hubbub
56 Carried
57 Misapprehension
65 Envy
68 Arrow poison
69 - noun
70 Distinguish
71 Diplomat's forte
72 Department of
73 - service

DOWN
1 Diplomatic agreement
2 Tennis name
3 - and hungry
4 Put ashore
5 Braved
6 Commemorate
7 Show or day
8 Infall
9 Protective surface
10 Booming great
11 Dry, pret.
12 Fatal date
13 Lip
18 Millet e.g.
19 Friendship
24 Raft
26 Novelist
27 Rice dish
28 Arg. plain
29 - statesman
30 Shown
31 Clan emblem
32 Unattractive
33 Washer cycle
34 - no
35 Stick's pal
36 See 27A
42 Damaged
43 payment
45 Likewise
47 - shot (military)
50 Grimm characters
51 Swimming
52 See 20A
53 See 21A
54 Parole
56 Hermit
57 Carried letters
59 Miss Kett
60 See "A" - "clock" scholar
61 Division word
64 Parole
66 Rent
67 Passing grade

OPEC's share of world oil market increases in '86 due to low prices

NEW YORK (R) — OPEC's share of the world oil market has increased during 1986 as low oil prices have driven some non-OPEC production from the market, industry analysts said recently.

They said OPEC's rising market share gives support to the policy change initiated by Saudi Arabia, which abandoned its policy of price protection last December, and may improve chances for an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production sharing agreement next month.

But some analysts continued to see problems with OPEC's ability to gain such an agreement which would put in doubt its wider objective of cooperation with non-OPEC countries.

OPEC output is estimated between 17.6 million and 18 million barrels per day (b/d) or 1.5 million b/d above its 16 million b/d quota.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly estimated current OPEC output at 17.6 million b/d and both the United Arab Emirates (UAE) oil minister and a Libyan oil official have said that current production is touching 18 million b/d.

Mr. John Lichtblau, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation Inc. in New York, said: "OPEC output has averaged approximately 17.5 million b/d for the first five months of the year and will probably continue at this level for some time."

This higher market share has largely benefited Saudi Arabia at the expense of non-OPEC producers, analysts said.

Saudi output went as low as 2.2 million b/d last year but is now estimated at between 4.3 and 4.5 million b/d against a quota of 4.35 million.

Some oil analysts believe that the price free fall of the past four months has brought about the increased demand which will allow OPEC to retain its new gains.

But Mr. Marion Stewart, an independent petroleum economist, said that oil demand increases have been only modest so far.

"U.S. consumption is only up about one per cent to date and total OECD demand seems to be following a similar trend which should dispel any doubts about the inability of producers to sharply increase short term sales by cutting prices, he said."

Mr. Lichtblau said that OPEC's higher market share was due to "a tremendous sacrifice in price which fell from about \$28 to almost half that level and which will not easily be made up over the near term."

The conflict in outlook between OPEC's radical states grouped about Algeria, Libya and Iran and the more moderate states grouped about Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE fuels analyst doubts about OPEC's ability to set a coherent policy.

The increased market share for OPEC production is making some headway in solving the problem of allocating production but several of the price hawks are unlikely to be satisfied at the prices required to maintain this share, analysts said.

It is an open question to see how long that market share would remain if OPEC were to raise prices as its more radical members would like to do," Mr. Lichtblau added.

Some analysts said the possibility of an accord when OPEC meets next month in Yugoslavia is greater as is the likelihood that non-OPEC nations will cooperate with OPEC.

But Mr. Charles Maxwell, oil analyst with C.J. Lawrence Inc., said that "the OPEC nations appear no closer to an agreement in Yugoslavia now than they were last month in Geneva."

Analysts remained equally divided about their outlook for prices given the rise in OPEC's share and its high output.

Mr. Randal who sees the rise in demand pacing the rise in supply said that continued strength in product prices will keep prices firm and send them above \$16.

But Mr. Maxwell said that figure represents a real ceiling on the price for the balance of the year although over 1987 a range between \$12 and \$18 a barrel is more likely.

Unlike some analysts who believe prices will find the \$20 level this year, we think prices will move in these lower ranges for the next two years as they establish a base to move over \$20 a barrel in 1988," he said.

W. Germany fears effects of low dollar

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany is growing increasingly worried over the effects of a low dollar on its economy shows signs of weak economic growth, economists and dealers said.

Comments by Bundesbank (Central Bank) President Karl Otto Poehl recently showed that Bonn was determined to protect its economy against a high mark and a weak dollar, Mr. Poehl said.

His comments — the first by a senior West German monetary official since the Tokyo summit at the beginning of this month — were also seen as a warning that West Germany would coordinate action with Japan, whose exports have been hit by a strong yen, to stem U.S. attempts to push the dollar lower.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said the time was near for joint dollar intervention.

"Gradually, it is getting to be the time for that," he said.

The dollar gained some ground last week following their statements.

Mr. Hermann Remspurger, economist with Berliner Handels-und Frankfurter Bank, said a weak dollar was worrying Bonn "since internal demand in Germany is less powerful than it has frequently been predicted. This is something relatively new in the discussion."

Latest Bundesbank figures show that March foreign orders in the manufacturing industry dipped dramatically to 145 per cent of their 1980 levels from 154 per cent in February, their lowest levels since 1984. Domestic orders in March were flat.

The West German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) in West Berlin said Gross National Product (GNP) could rise to show real three per cent growth for the second quarter of 1986, but first quarter growth was considerably weaker than originally expected.

The economics ministry said the economy showed sluggish growth in the first quarter due to bad winter weather, the steep rise in the mark and a tendency for companies to put off restocking inventories in the face of plummeting oil prices.

Supply cuts have been worse than usual this year, with some areas in crisis as early as February following low rainfall.

Italy's shuttle water to help dry Malta

VALLETTA (R) — Italy is ferrying drinking water to Malta to help tide the Mediterranean island over an acute shortage.

The problem is not new to Malta where former prime minister, Mr. Dom Mintoff once said: "Water production is costing us as much as whisky." But the situation is worse this year because winter rainfall was low.

Italian tankers have been bringing water as part of plans to build a reserve to enable a reverse

osmosis plant at Ghar Lapsi, southeast Malta, to be closed while its daily output is raised by one million gallons a day from 4.4 million.

Maltese water production has failed in some years to meet needs of about 17 million gallons a day for Malta's estimated 320,000 people.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 26, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an excellent day and evening to organize your business and other activities so that you will have additional and worthwhile security in the days ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Use better methods for handling outside tasks and you gain greater prestige with the public in general.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Find a better method of handling new projects so that you have more success with them. Don't hesitate to contact an expert for help.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Anything that you want to do to improve your business ability is wise to set in motion now. Be enthused and all works out well.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be more businesslike with your associates and your joint affairs will work out much better.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have a chance to raise your consciousness so that you can gain more benefits than possible before now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan to enjoy the pleasures you have found satisfying in the past and gain success from worry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you are more practical in family matters, you get better results. Invite down-to-earth guests into your home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You find a better way of handling routines, so discuss them with those whom you work with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are thinking along practical lines now and can make big headway in gaining more assets and property.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You understand every phase of some situation and have the finest answers that will ensure to your benefit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Stop daydreaming so much. A companion may pin you down about giving definite answers to some important issue.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan your activities according to what is accepted and they work to your benefit. Be more practical instead of so visionary.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have many abilities pertaining to business and finance, as well as property and land. Teach not to want to be so authoritative with others, but rather be helpful to them when asked for advice. Make sure you give good spiritual training early in life.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.

ACROSS
1 Nips or sage
5 Curved path
10 World alliance
14 Cracking
15 Sows
16 Mother of
17 Helen of Troy
20 Damaged e.g.
21 New entrance
22 CIA's predecessor
23 Alliance letters
25 Earth
27 Envy
36 Lead up
38 Alliance letters
39 Ivy League
40 Young men
42 Distinguished
43 - same as
44 Put - to (British)
46 Hebrew month
48 Soldiers' go.
49 Diplomatic official
53 Lab burner
54 Do a schuss
55 Hubbub
56 Carried
57 Misapprehension
65 Envy
68 Arrow poison
69 - noun
70 Distinguish
71 Diplomat's forte
72 Department of
73 - service

DOWN
1 Diplomatic agreement
2 Tennis name
3 - and hungry
4 Put ashore
5 Braved
6 Commemorate
7 Show or day
8 Infall
9 Protective surface
10 Booming great
11 Dry, pret.
12 Fatal date
13 Lip
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56 Hermit
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59 Miss Kett
60 See "A" - "clock" scholar
61 Division word
64 Parole
66 Rent
67 Passing grade

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

HARRIS
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BIG VITAMIN SALE!

WHEAT GERM TEA - \$5.99

"He won't eat yogurt with fruit or nuts in it. Got any with beer and pepperoni in it?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GHEED
CHURS
CLIPES
SPIVLE

Doesn't have a brain in his head

WHAT HE WOULD BE IF HE SAID WHAT HE THOUGHT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FATAL GAUDY CALMLY BUBBLE
Answer: What the salesman said that bargain bed was - A "LULLA-BUT"

Mutt 'n' Jeff

BARBIE, I'M BROKE AGAIN! WE SPENT MY WHOLE SALARY THIS WEEK!

OH, I'M SORRY, JEFF! WE'VE GOT TO CUT DOWN ON DATING!

TO ECONOMIZE, LET'S SEE EACH OTHER ONLY ONE DAY A WEEK!

WELL -- O.K. WHAT DAY?

WHAT DAY DO YOU GET PAID?

Andy Capp

WOULD YOU GIVE ME A CALL

Death toll in South African weekend violence rises to 16

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The official death toll in weekend violence raging in South Africa's black townships rose to 16 Sunday when police said they had found the bodies of eight men.

They appeared to have been killed in battles between radicals demanding the total scrapping of the apartheid race discrimination system and blacks they accuse of working with the white authorities.

Police said Saturday they had shot dead eight black men, one of whom was killed while trying to set fire to a car.

Police reported serious violence throughout the country, with 12 people injured, six by black crowds and six by police.

Five of the dead men were found in KwaMashu, a Durban township hard-hit by recent battles between blacks.

Another was hanged and burnt to death at Kwanobuhle in the eastern Cape, a particularly militant area.

The others were burnt to death in Soweto, Johannesburg's black satellite city, and in Nyanga, near Cape Town.

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ment's cautious modifications of apartheid.

They had threatened to disrupt a speech by Mr. Le Grange in which he assured about 200 loyalists of the ruling National Party (NP) that the government had the townships under control.

"We are acting strongly," said Mr. Le Grange, one of the most right-wing cabinet ministers. "If our (black) enemies think they have in any sense come up against the full might of South Africa's security forces, they are making a big mistake."

The remote farming area around Ellisras was the target of a land-mine blast in January which claimed two white lives and which Pretoria blamed on the African National Congress (ANC).

On Saturday South Africa was still reaping an international whirlwind of protest for Monday's raids by its troops on what it called ANC guerrilla bases in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Washington is expelling South Africa's chief defence attaché and Pretoria retaliated by saying it would expel the senior U.S. military envoy — whom Washington had already recalled for consultations.

Outside the school where Mr. Le Grange spoke, police scuffled with zealots of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB, Afrikaner Resistance Movement) who tried to break through their ranks, arresting five men.

While South African liberals and foreign governments accuse Mr. Le Grange's police of using excessive force against blacks, the extremists say the force is not too much.

The AWB accuses the NP of betraying the Dutch-descended Afrikaners who put it into power in 1948 to institute apartheid — which Ellisras is clearly far from scrapping.

Reporters saw "whites only" signs still adorning amenities which have long been segregated in major cities.

Mr. Le Grange told his audience security forces had killed two thirds of the 1,500 victims of two years of relentless unrest.

In recent months, police have mainly reported killings in battles between blacks. On Saturday they announced no deaths in the power struggles raging in many townships between black radicals and blacks accused of working with the white authorities.

Col. Rabetrano was also a leading sports administrator.

The government announced that because of the crash it was cancelling its participation Sunday in the international Sports Aid run. Several ministers had been due to take part.

He said a third Hindu was killed late Saturday night in the same area. Police arrested six Sikh suspects.

The official said two extremists died in a shoot-out with police Sunday on the outskirts of the Sikh holy city Amritsar. They were believed to have taken part in an attack in the city late Wednesday in which 11 people were killed, mainly Hindus.

The deaths raised the toll in Punjab this month to 79 and increased fears of a flight to other parts of India by Hindus, who form 40 per cent of the state's 18 million people.

Amritsar police chief S.S. Virk said police captured 12 suspected extremists in a raid on a Sikh shrine in the city on Friday night.

Virk said police had also arrested 22 people suspected of involvement in Wednesday's market attack, the bloodiest since extremists shot dead 14 Hindus in the industrial town of Ludhiana two months ago.

The violence has continued despite an April 30 raid by commando-led security forces on the Sikhs' holiest shrine, Amritsar's Golden Temple, to flush out extremists who had declared an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan.

Mani Sanyal, deputy mayor of Calcutta, the most densely populated metropolitan area in the world, told Reuters: "The extreme backwardness of rural areas in the Third World forces people out of the villages and into the cities in search of a better life."

The delegates agreed that better social services and employment opportunities in rural areas might slacken migration from villages into towns.

"Third World countries have to avoid spending most of their limited resources in solving the problems of big cities at the expense of neglecting rural areas," Manila's acting Governor Jose Lina said.

Most delegates from developing countries were in favour of recommending family planning programmes to stem population growth.

"Our main problem is education," Mexico City's top city planner, Miguel Messmacher said. "Living standards will improve when the level of education is raised."

Mexico City, with 18 million inhabitants, is the world's biggest metropolis. Its population is expected to reach 26 million by the year 2000.

None of the six largest North American cities — Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Detroit, New York and San Francisco — attended the conference, charging that massive federal budget cuts prevented them sending delegates to the meeting.

Haji Saifullah Khan, leader of

an independent group in the assembly, demanded that Mr. Junejo be unseated as the law prescribed.

Mr. Junejo, whose election victory over Gen. Zia's candidate as speaker last year was hailed as the first real sign of change from military rule, earned the government's wrath by admitting the challenge and referring it to the election commission for action.

Gen. Zia, who assumed enhanced powers as president before ending eight and a half years of martial law last December, swiftly issued a decree amending the law to protect Mr. Junejo in a move critics said smacked of continued one-man rule.

Mr. Junejo had his PML party in the assembly decide to oust Mr. Junejo, which led to critics painting the prime minister as being vindictive and the speaker as a martyr.

The controversy dealt a blow to Mr. Junejo's credibility, which had been rising in the past two months as he appeared to defuse Ms. Bhutto's challenge with a tolerance not seen in Pakistani politics in many years.

The PML, with a commanding majority in the assembly, is confident to carry the no-confidence move. But the secret ballot adds a touch of uncertainty to the vote.

The government's vocal critics in the assembly have visited sev-

eral cities campaigning for Mr. Junejo and have predicted that PML members would violate the party discipline.

The government's pre-occupation with the Imran controversy raised fears it could give little time to budget-making, leaving the process to the bureaucracy.

The government "could not issue meaningful guidelines to the budget-makers and is said to have confined itself to issuing a simple and general directive to shape the budget so that it is heavily weighted in favour of social justice," an article in the Karachi daily Dawn said.

The skills of most top bureaucrats in the economic ministries are limited to "conservative accountancy and (they) are wary of any kind of innovation," the article said.

Government officials said the annual development plan for the next fiscal year would be geared to implement a five-point programme of Mr. Junejo's to give priority to energy, rural development, literacy and social development.

Meanwhile Ms. Bhutto said Saturday that an inquiry would be ordered into the execution of her father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, if her party came to power.

She made the statement in reply to a question during a "meet-the-press" talk at the Karachi Press Club.

Prime Minister Bhutto was toppled in a 1977 military coup by Gen. Zia, who ordered him hanged in 1979 on disputed murder conspiracy charges.

Ms. Bhutto, who is campaigning for new polls by next autumn, was asked whether her father's case would be reopened if her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was again voted to power.

She said: "Justice must be done. It is the people's right to know whether their elected prime minister had planned a political murder or whether a plan was made to murder him."

"A judicial inquiry will be made in the case if the PPP came back into power."

The late prime minister was convicted by the Lahore high court of Punjab province for conspiring to commit a political murder, and the judgment was later upheld in a 4-3 supreme court split decision.

Gen. Zia ignored appeals for clemency by numerous world leaders.

An international group of lawyers later said Mr. Bhutto's trial failed to meet the minimum accepted standards of justice or of Islamic law.

Her father, W.E. Jayabac, said: "About 20 men stormed the village and opened fire on my wife and the child she was carrying in her arms and on my sister-in-law. They then killed two of my neighbours and ran into the jungle."

The military coordinating officer in Trincomalee, Brig. Harsha Gunaratne, said the guerrillas were probably trying to scare away the few Sinhalese remaining in the area.

Trincomalee district had a mixed population of Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims.

Brig. Gunaratne said the army had three weeks ago helped about 500 Sinhalese families to return to their homes and the rebels were probably trying to frighten others off returning.

Meanwhile citizens committees in Jaffna, stronghold of Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in Sri Lanka, appealed to President Junius Jayewardene Sunday to stop a military offensive that they say has so far killed 90 residents.

"The ongoing military offensive in the peninsula has been the most inhuman and brutal of all our attacks on civilians and so far 90 people have been killed and an innumerable number of persons injured," the coordinating committee of 40 citizens committees in Jaffna said in an appeal to Mr. Jayewardene.

Journalists who visited the scene of the raids Saturday saw seven bodies, most riddled with bullets but one eight-year-old girl had been killed with axe blows.

He was met at the airport by Vice President and Foreign Minister Salvador Laurel, who will host a dinner for the prime minister at a hotel later Sunday.

"I want to give you the assurance that we will do all that is within our power to help you because we believe that the task that confronts the new government is of a very significant dimension that is going to require the cooperation of all elements within the Philippine Republic," Mr. Hawke said.

Mr. Hawke is scheduled to meet with Mrs. Aquino on Monday. A statement released earlier by the Australian embassy said he will discuss economic assistance with Mrs. Aquino.

The Aquino government has urged foreign countries to help rebuild her country's economy.

The United States has called on its allies to join in an international effort to raise \$2 billion for the Philippine Republic.

Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden, who visited Manila shortly after Mrs. Aquino took office in February, had said his government would increase Australian aid to the Philippines by at least 50 per cent to 25 million Australian dollars (\$17.5 million) a year.

On the local scene eight soldiers were killed when Communist rebels Saturday attacked an army outpost 80 kilometres from Davao city while President Aquino was visiting that provincial capital, the military said Sunday.

Col. Romeo Rocina, Davao area commander, said four other soldiers were wounded in the pre-dawn battle in the town of Nabunturan, which took place three hours before Mrs. Aquino visited another military camp on the outskirts of Davao city.

Col. Rocina said he believed there was no connection between the attack and Mrs. Aquino's visit. Interviews with civilians in the Nabunturan area indicated about 30 of the 300 rebels taking part in the attack died in the two-hour clash. Col. Rocina said in a telephone interview from his Davao headquarters.

More than 800 people have died in rebel-related violence since she took office.

Political heat wave overshadows Pakistan budget

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's national assembly meets Monday for a stormy session called to dump its independent speaker before taking up the annual national budget.

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Party's move to oust speaker Fakhar Imam with a no-confidence vote in the 237-seat assembly, the lower house of parliament, has faced Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's one-year-old civilian administration with its first major parliamentary crisis.

The political tempo quickened here last month with the return of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto from exile and her massive rallies in a whirlwind campaign for new elections by next autumn.

But as Ms. Bhutto suspended her campaign for the current Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the government got a legal jolt from Mr. Imam who it decided to remove before the scheduled presentation of the budget to the assembly on Thursday.

The controversy was initiated by an independent deputy who charged that Mr. Junejo, picked by President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to lead the assembly elected in no-party polls in February, 1985, had violated the no-party law himself.

Haji Saifullah Khan, leader of

Australian premier arrives in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke arrived in Manila Sunday pledging his country will "do all that is within our power" to help the three-month-old government of President Corason Aquino.

Mr. Hawke said he intends to attach "great importance" to relations with the Philippines.

"I hope that the government and the Filipino people will understand both the interest and commitment of the Australian people in trying to assist the people of the Philippines in the very great task of lifting the social and economic positions of the people," Mr. Hawke said.

Australia was one of the first countries to support Mrs. Aquino after the fraud-marred February Philippine election, which led to the ouster of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos in a civilian-backed military revolt.

Mr. Hawke arrived from Peking on a Royal Australian Air Force plane with his wife Hazel, and an entourage of officials and journalists. His one-day visit to Manila is the last leg of an 11-day Asia tour.

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